

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES

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SONIC THE HEDGEHOG PRESENTS:

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

GUEST STARRING:

PRINCESS
Sally



GNUCKLES™

BOOK TWENTY-NINE

MY SPECIAL FRIEND

BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES, THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN FROM WITHIN!

ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT...
GNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!



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Almost a lifetime ago, while still a very young girl, her Royal Highness Princess Sally met and befriended a young echidna lad known as Knuckles. Though circumstance would infrequently bring them together over the subsequent years, the bonds between them remained secure and steadfast. Thus has it always been, until now...

HOW COULD YOU--?!!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY FRIEND--

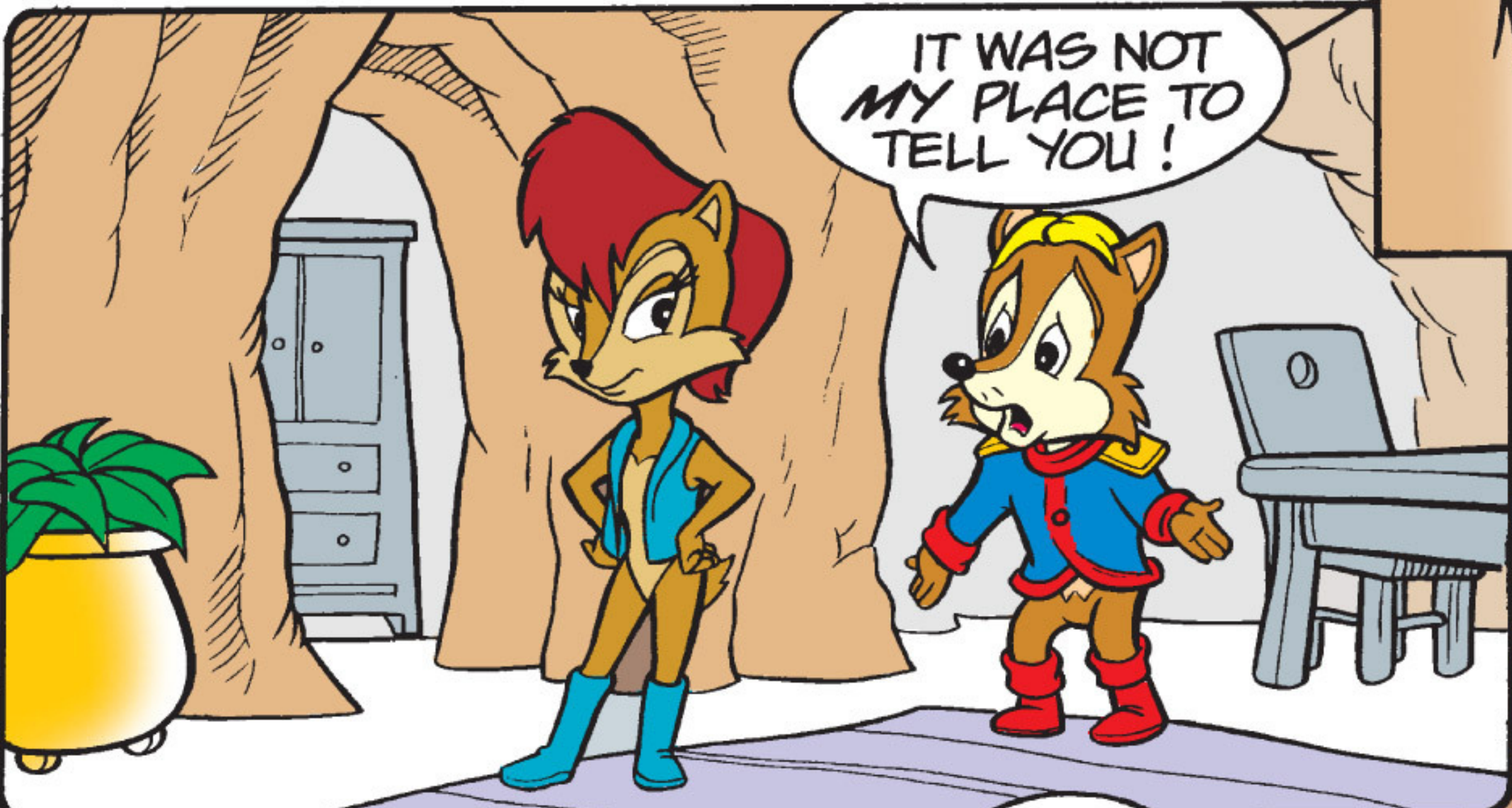
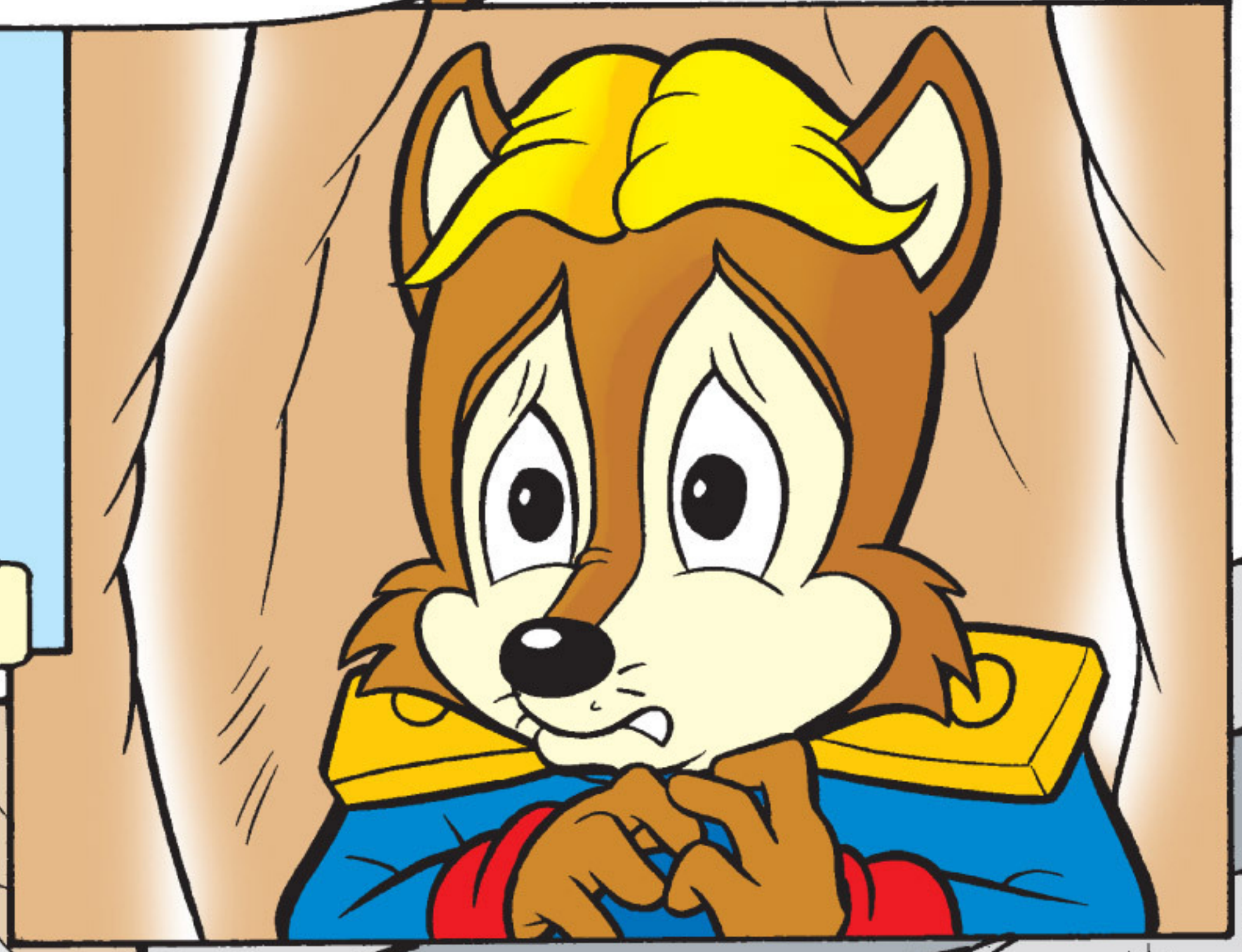
--AND YOU DON'T SEE FIT TO TELL ME YOU WERE GOING ON A MISSION TO FIND A BROTHER I DIDN'T KNOW I HAD?!!*



ANTOINE!! HOW CAN I EVER TRUST YOU AGAIN?!



* KNUCKLES ARCHIVES VOL. 4 -- ED.



IT WAS NOT MY PLACE TO TELL YOU!



"BUT SOMEONE ELSE SHOULD'VE DONE SO!"

Ahhh, SALLY!

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SEND FOR YOU!

YOU MUST HAVE READ MY MIND, FATHER!

WE HAVE TO TALK!



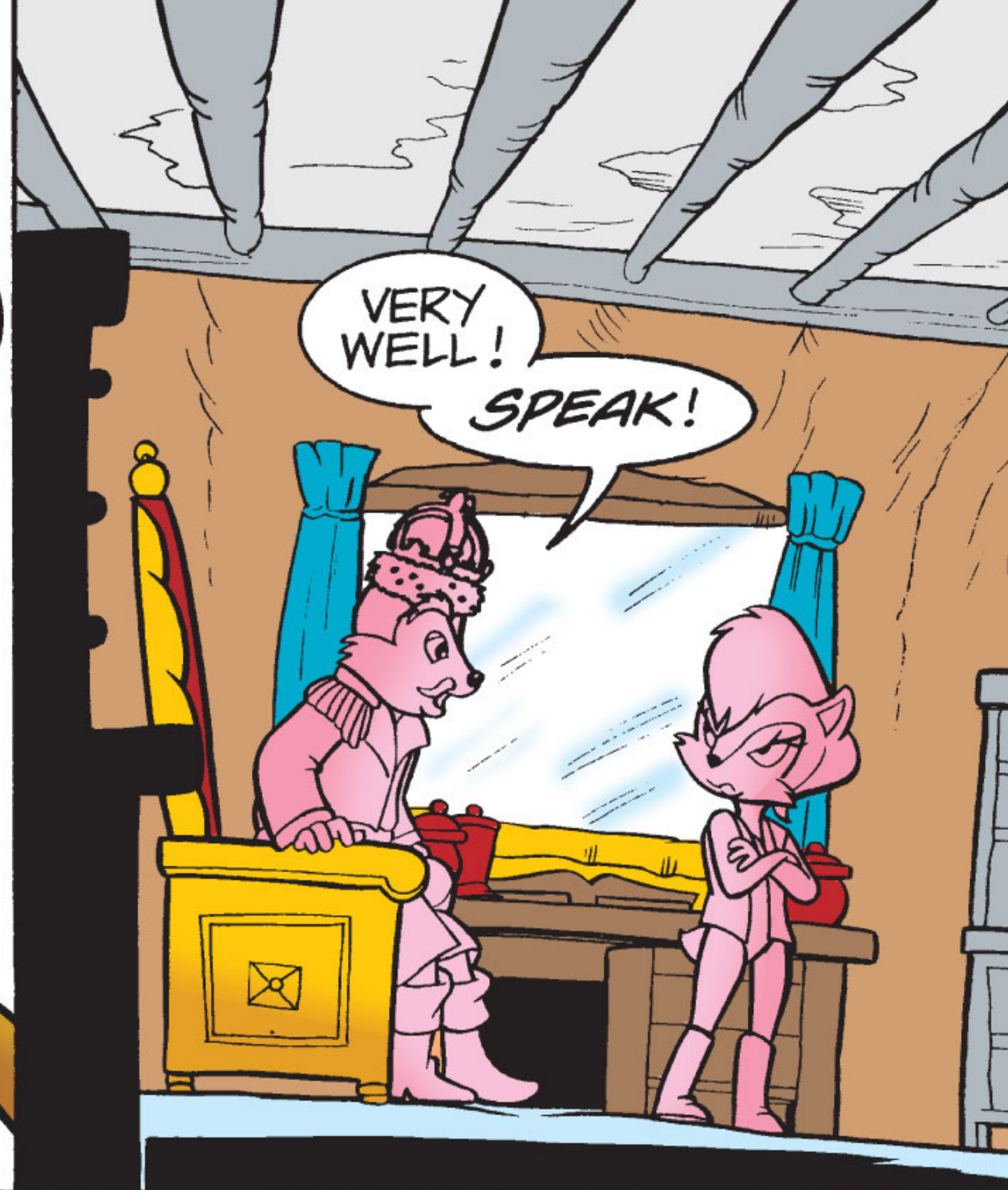
NO! I GUESS IT WASN'T!



I CAN WELL IMAGINE OVER WHAT!

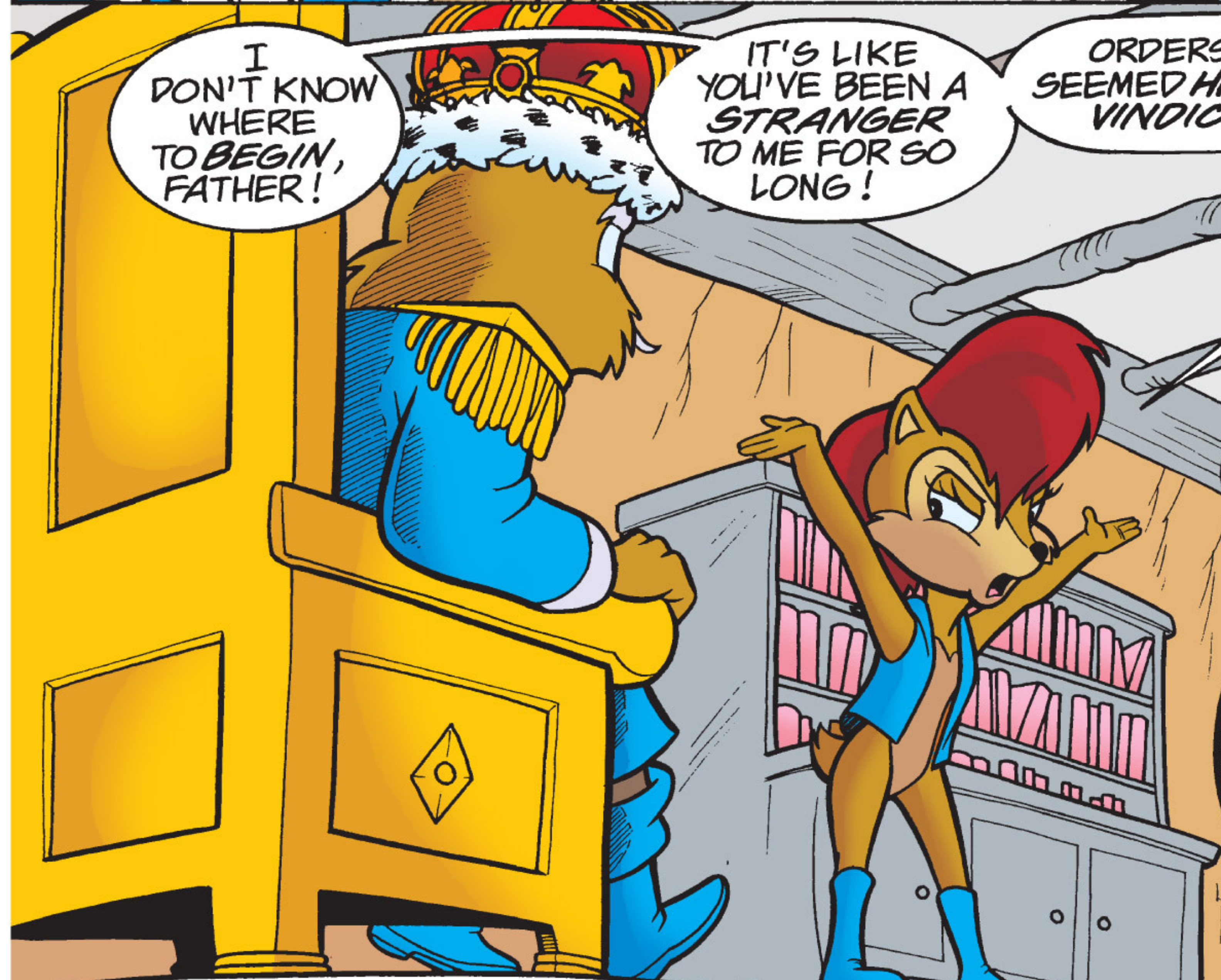
IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT, HOWEVER! WE MUST--

NO, FATHER! NOT THIS TIME! NOT UNTIL YOU'VE HEARD ME OUT!



VERY WELL!

SPEAK!



I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN, FATHER!

IT'S LIKE YOU'VE BEEN A STRANGER TO ME FOR SO LONG!

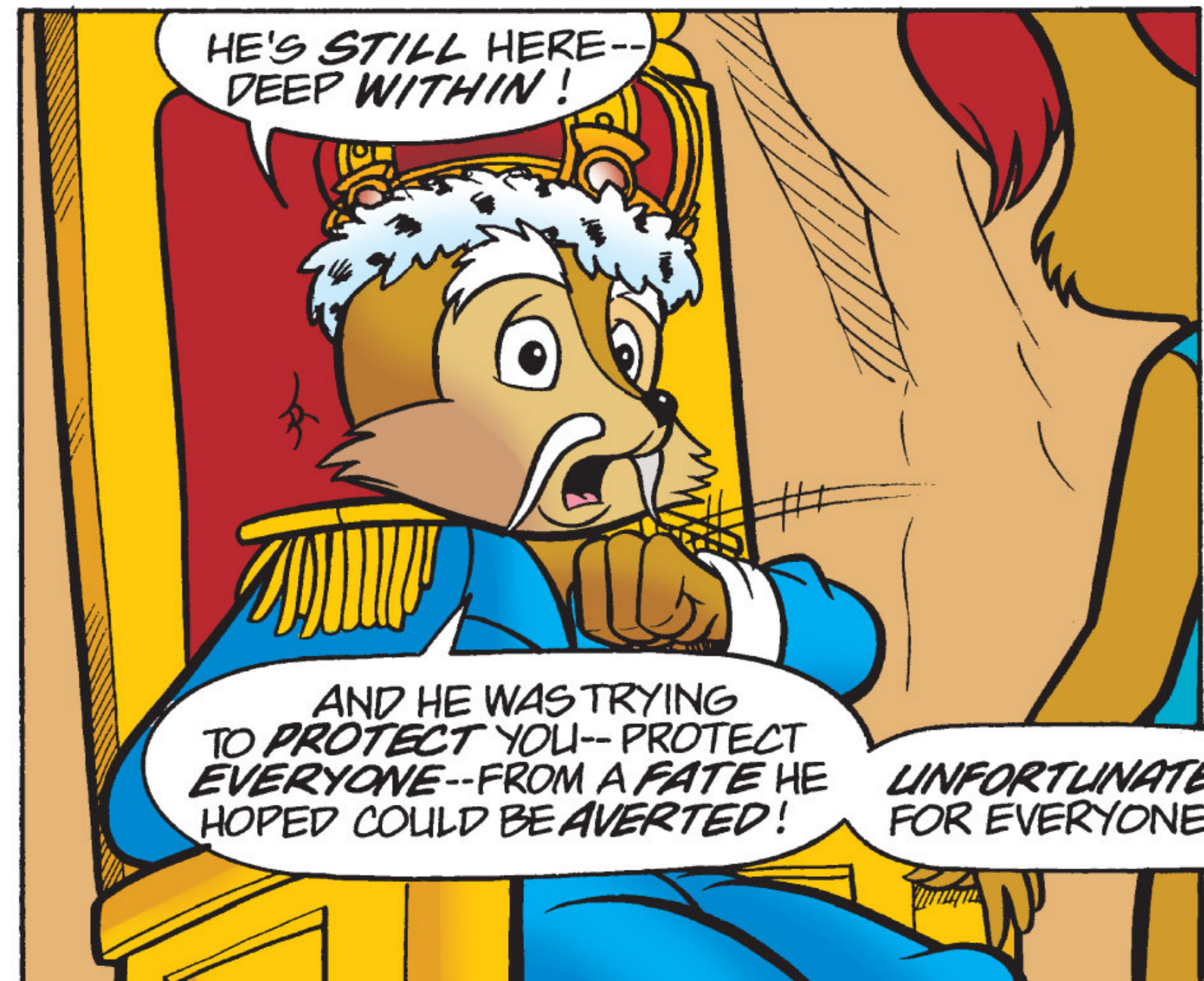
ORDERS THAT SEEMED HARSH AND VINDICTIVE--*

--DEMANDING THAT I MARRY ANTOINE--**

--AND NOW LEARNING YOU'VE KEPT MY OWN BROTHER A SECRET FROM ME!

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE LOVING, CARING FATHER I USED TO KNOW?

* LIKE DISMANTLING THE ROBBIANS IN SONIC ARCHIVES VOL. 15
** IN SONIC ARCHIVES VOL. 16 -- ED.

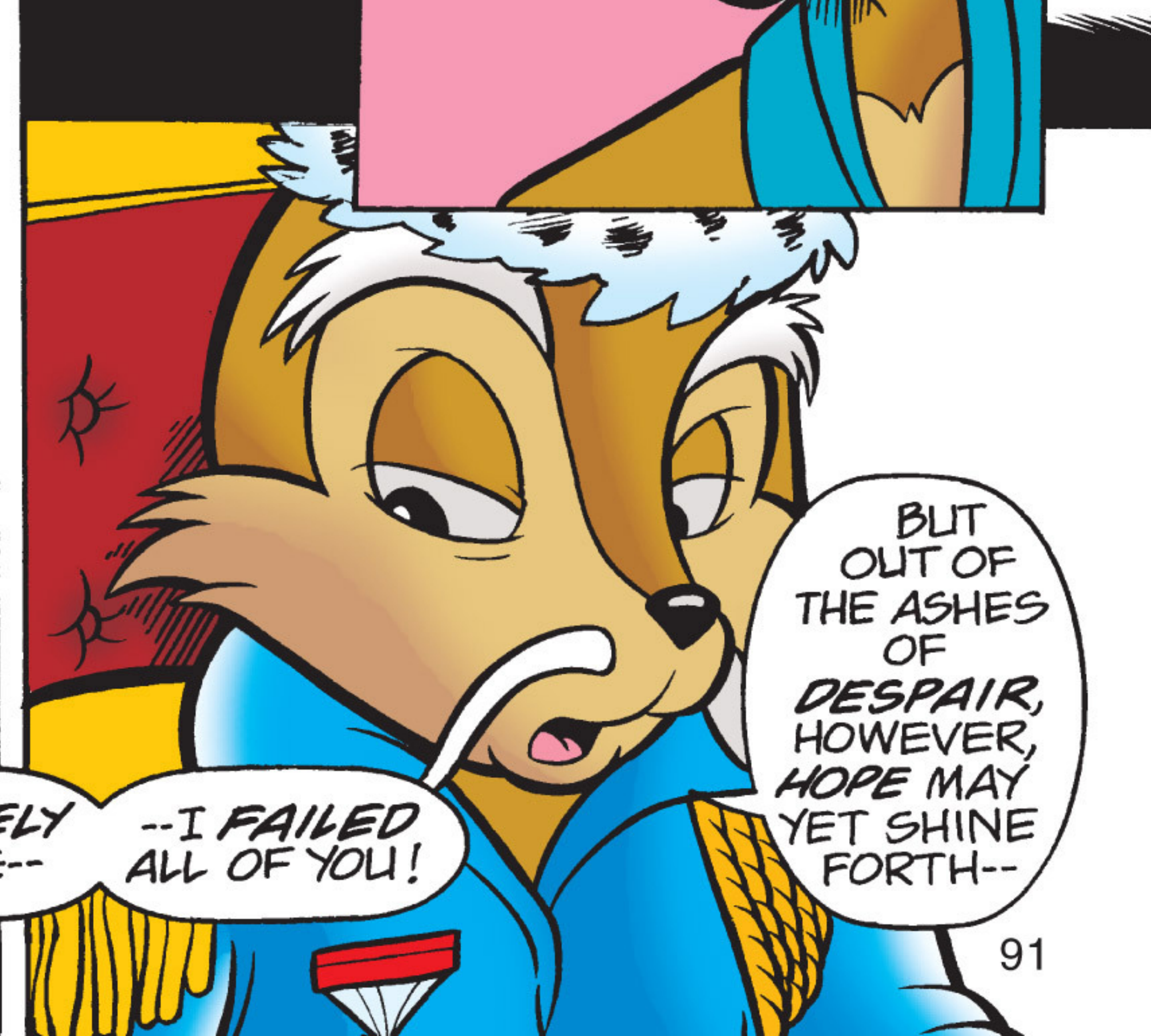


HE'S STILL HERE-- DEEP WITHIN!

AND HE WAS TRYING TO PROTECT YOU-- PROTECT EVERYONE--FROM A FATE HE HOPED COULD BE AVERTED!

UNFORTUNATELY FOR EVERYONE--

--I FAILED ALL OF YOU!



BUT OUT OF THE ASHES OF DESPAIR, HOWEVER, HOPE MAY YET SHINE FORTH--

"-- AND I BELIEVE THE *SOURCE* CAN BE FOUND ON THE *FLOATING ISLAND!*"



CATWEAZLE!
YOU MANGY OLD BIRD!

I GUESS I HAVE BEEN HANGING IN ECHIDNAOPOLIS MORE THAN I SHOULD--

--CONSIDERING I AM THE GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND!

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND HERE IN QUITE SOME TIME!

I THOUGHT YOU'D GONE CITY SLICKER ON ME!

WHY? DOES ANYONE HAVE A COMPLAINT ABOUT IT?

KNUCKLES IN

My Special Friend

Guest Starring...
PRINCESS Sally

YOU MEAN ABOUT THE DINGOES *PARTYING* UNTIL DAWN--
ECHIDNA DEVELOPERS *BUILDING*
IN THE NAME OF PROGRESS--

--AND OVERLANDERS
FIGHTING OVER US
AS IF WE WERE SOME
TROPHY?

WHAT'S TO
COMPLAIN ABOUT?
THIS IS PARADISE,
REMEMBER?

VER-RY
FUNNY!

I'D RATHER DEAL
WITH DISRUPTIVE DINGOES
THAN FAMILY PROBLEMS
ANY DAY!

FAMILY
PROBLEMS, EH? SAY
NO MORE!

I'VE AN UNCLE WHO
CAN NEVER GET HIS
LAZY A--

CATWEAZLE!

I'M NOT
THE ONE WITH
THE PROBLEMS!
THEY ARE!

I ONLY HAVE
TO DEAL WITH
THEM!

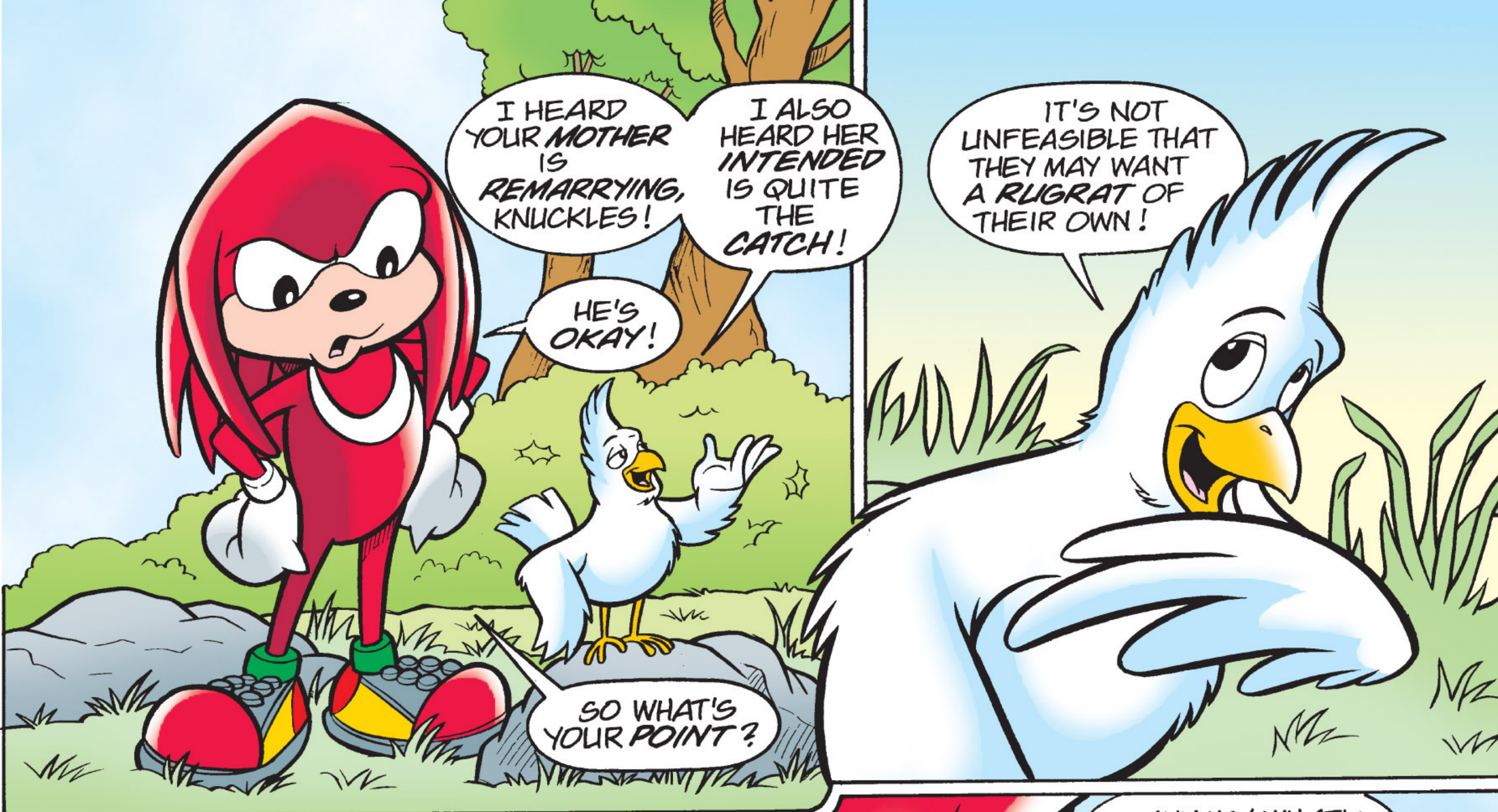
YOU HAVEN'T DEALT
WITH ANYONE UNTIL YOU'VE
DEALT WITH MY SISTER,
EGGMUFFIN!

NOW
THERE'S
A REAL
SHREW!

I HAVEN'T ANY BROTHERS
OR SISTERS TO GET ME
AGGRAVATED!

YOU MEAN,
YET!

COME
AGAIN?



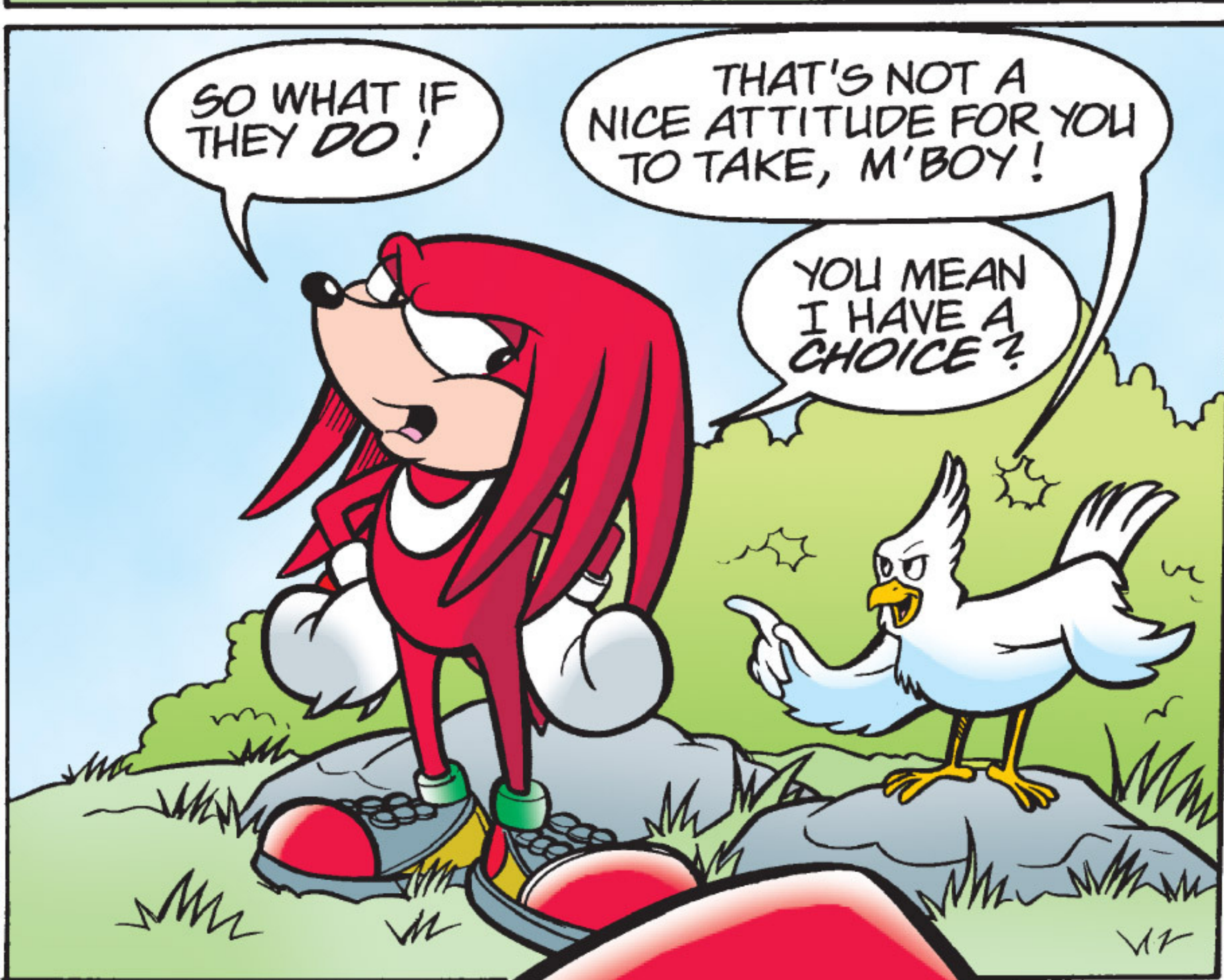
I HEARD YOUR MOTHER IS REMARRYING, KNUCKLES!

I ALSO HEARD HER INTENDED IS QUITE THE CATCH!

IT'S NOT UNFEASIBLE THAT THEY MAY WANT A RUGRAT OF THEIR OWN!

HE'S OKAY!

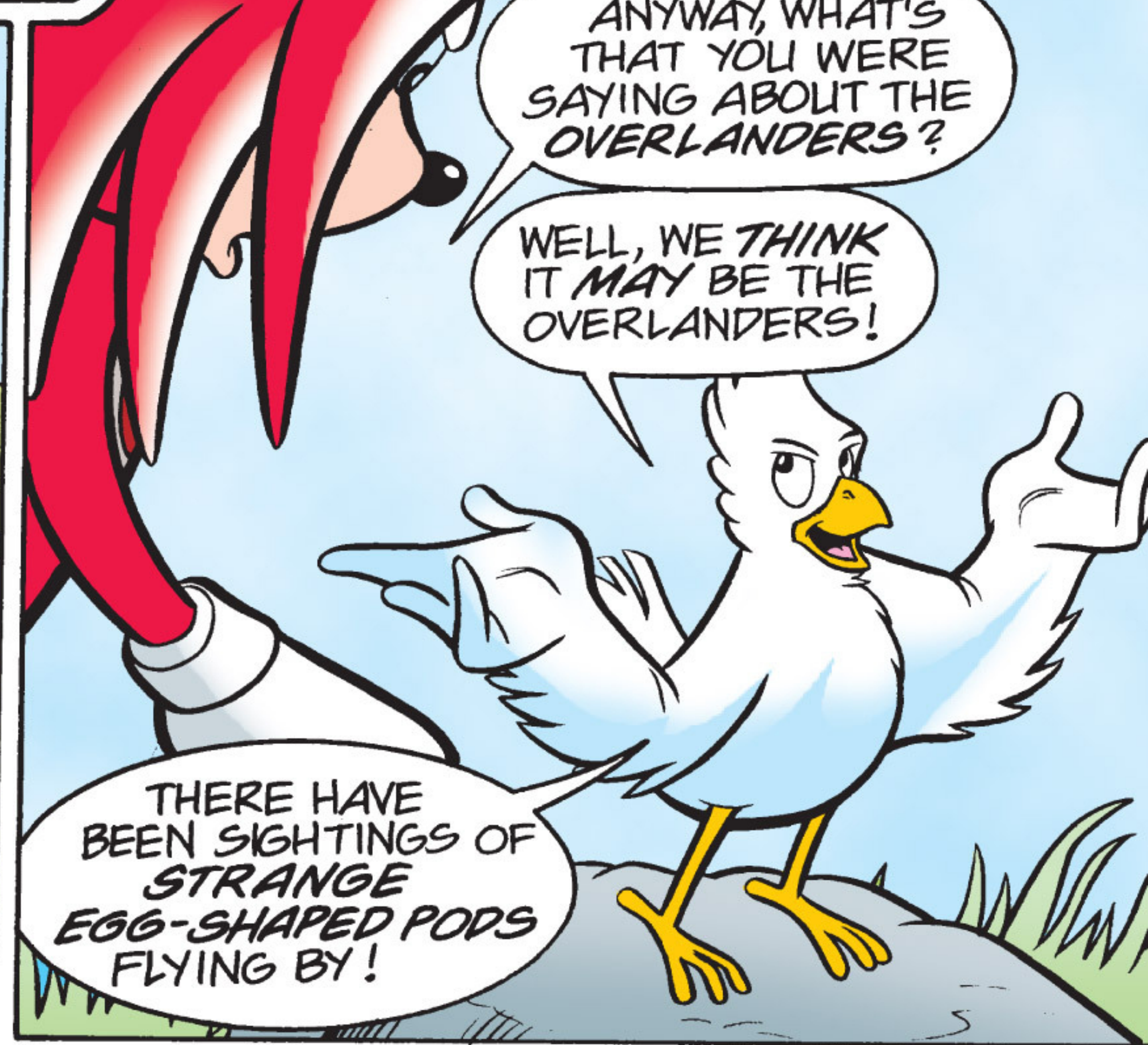
SO WHAT'S YOUR POINT?



SO WHAT IF THEY DO!

THAT'S NOT A NICE ATTITUDE FOR YOU TO TAKE, M'BOY!

YOU MEAN I HAVE A CHOICE?



ANYWAY, WHAT'S THAT YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT THE OVERLANDERS?

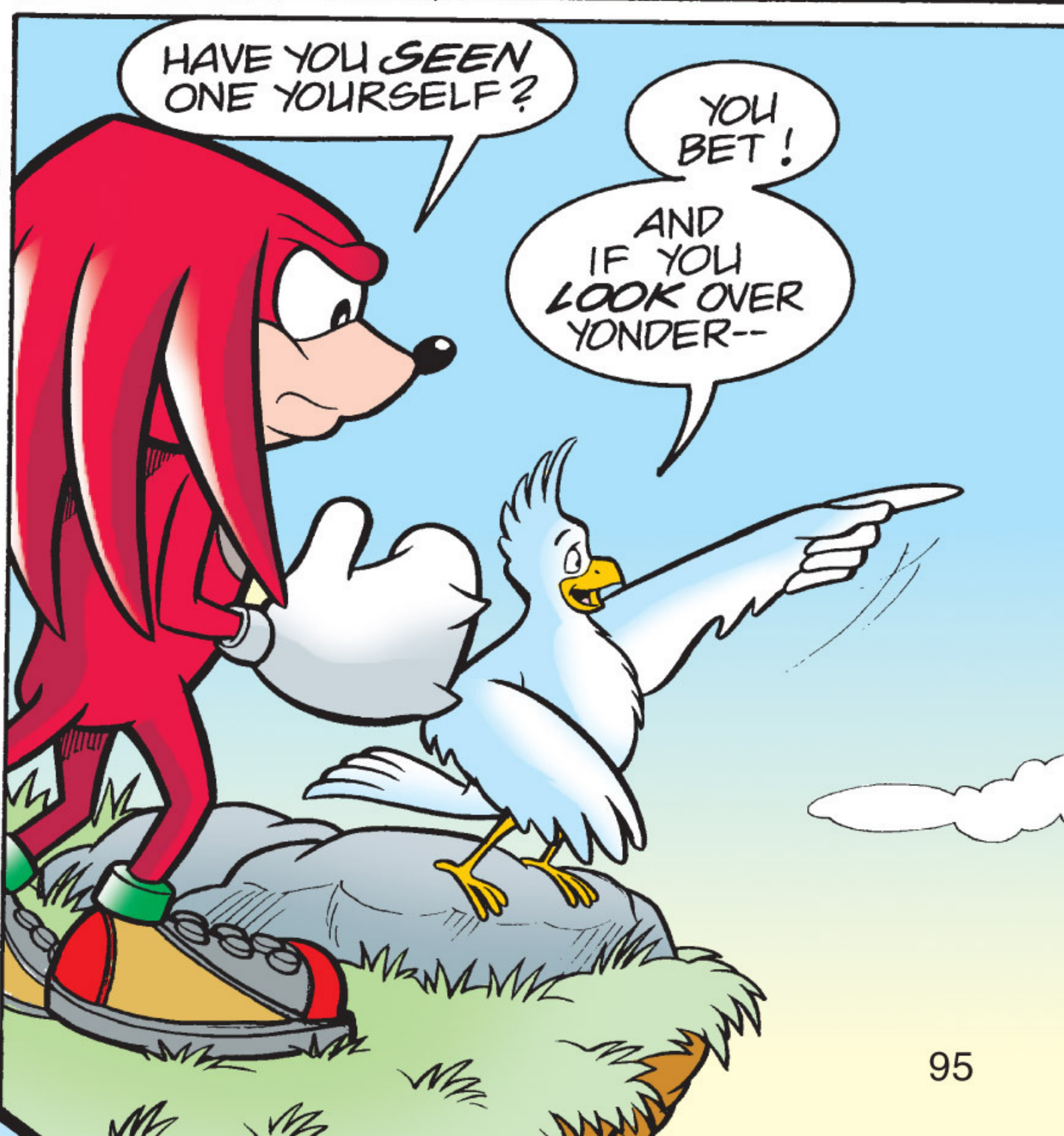
WELL, WE THINK IT MAY BE THE OVERLANDERS!

THERE HAVE BEEN SIGHTINGS OF STRANGE EGG-SHAPED PODS FLYING BY!



EGG-SHAPED PODS, EH?

THAT SURE DOES SOUND SICKENINGLY FAMILIAR!



HAVE YOU SEEN ONE YOURSELF?

YOU BET!

AND IF YOU LOOK OVER YONDER--

"--THERE'S ONE NOW!"

I FEEL AWFUL, NICOLE!
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE
DOUBTED MY FATHER!

THE KING'S EXPERIENCES WITH TEMPORAL
ANOMALIES WHILE TRAPPED IN THE VOID
WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS
EXPLAINING HIS UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR!

TAKE HIS ORDERS TO
DISMANTLE THE
ROBOTICIZED MOBIAN
CITIZENRY AS AN
EXAMPLE!

I ALREADY
HAVE!

FROM HIS POINT-
OF-VIEW, MY FATHER SAW
A POTENTIALLY **FATAL**
PROBLEM AND OFFERED UP
AN ARGUABLY **PRAGMATIC**
SOLUTION!

HE **KNEW** ROBOTNIK-
MACH 2 WOULD USE THEM
AGAINST US AND TRIED
TO PREVENT THAT!

AND WERE
I HIM, AND IF
I KNEW WHAT
HE KNEW--

--AT THIS MOMENT,
I'M NOT SO SURE I
WOULDN'T HAVE DONE
THE **SAME** THING!

AT THIS MOMENT,
SALLY, THE THING
TO DO NOW IS
ACTIVATE THE
BEACON
SIGNAL --

"--ALLOWING THOSE WHO, ACCORDING TO THE KING, SAFEGUARD THE FLOATING ISLAND TO DISTINGUISH US AS A FRIEND INSTEAD OF A FOE!"

**BEEP!
BEEP!**

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT, THUNDERHAWK?

DESPITE THE NATURE OF THE APPROACHING AIRCRAFT, THAT IS THE ROYAL IDENTIFICATION SIGNAL WE'RE RECEIVING!

RECOMMENDATION?

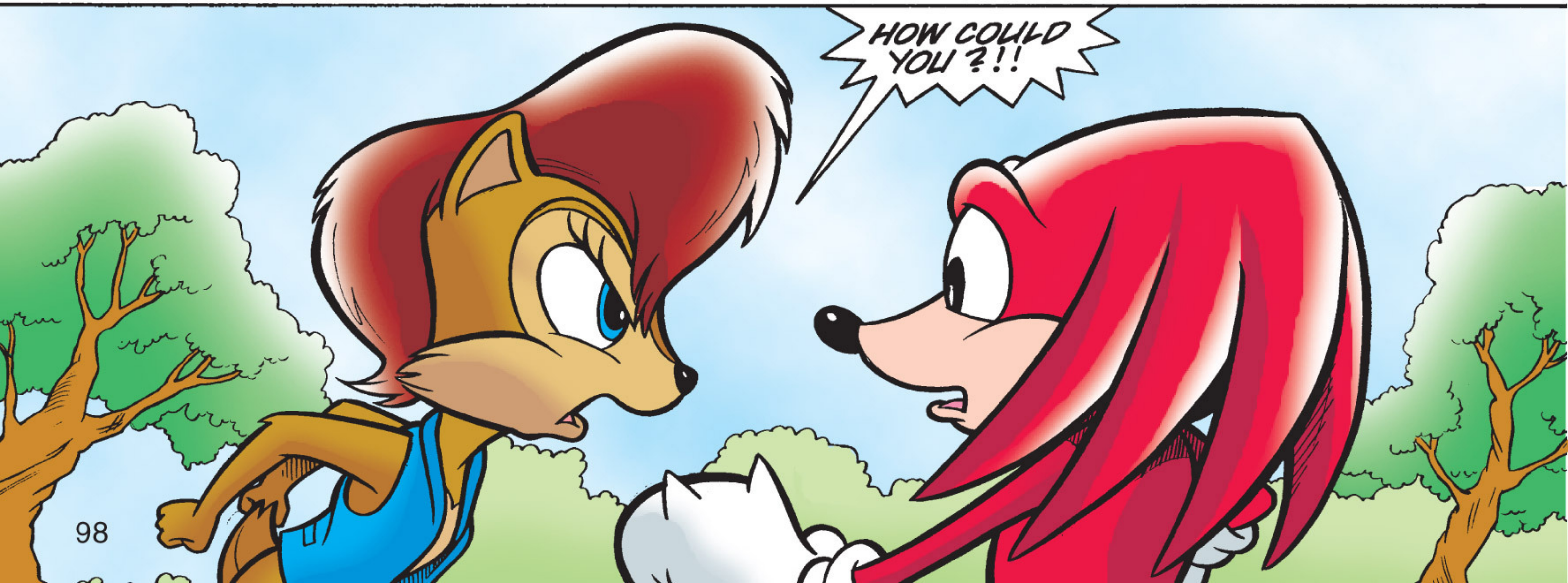
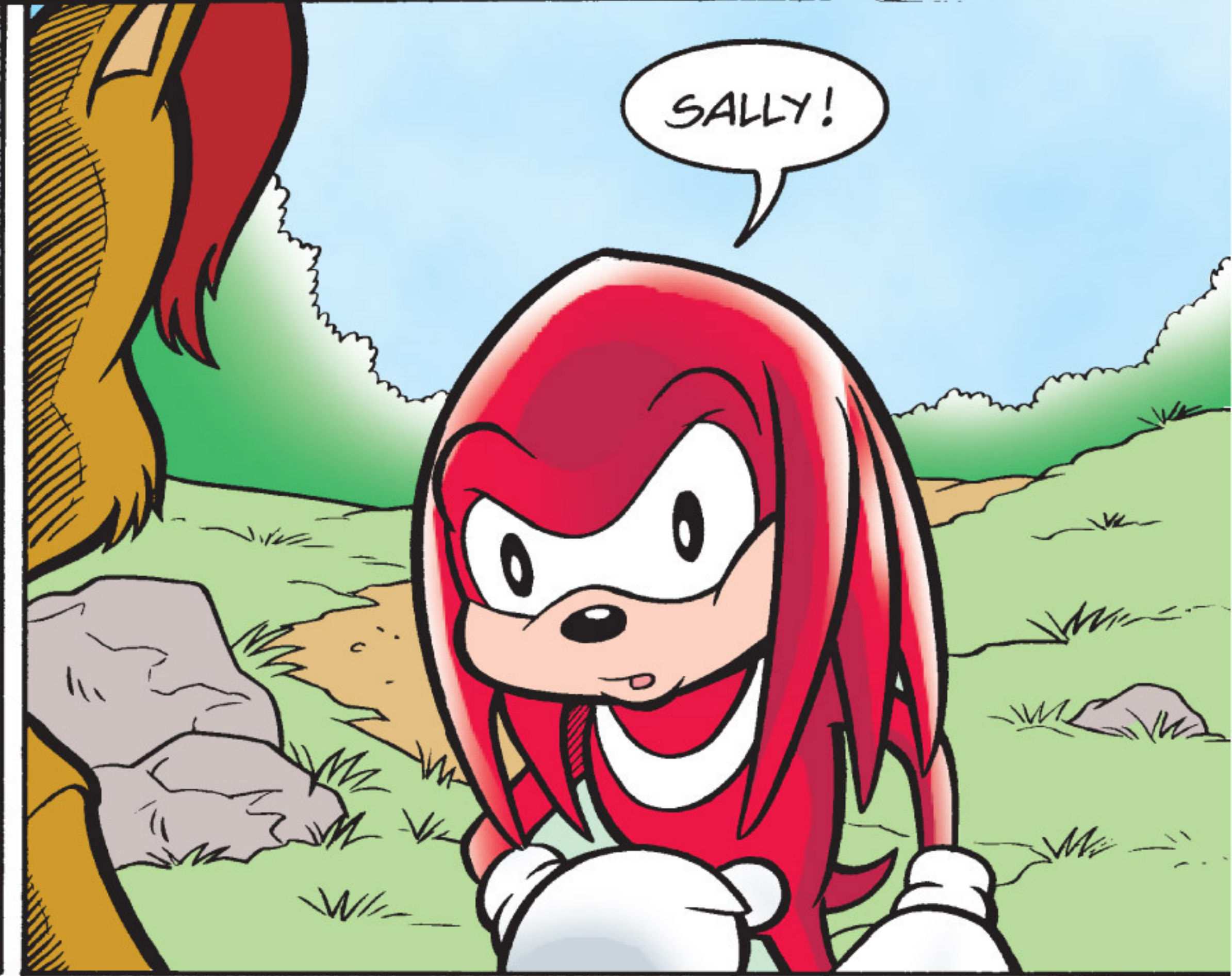
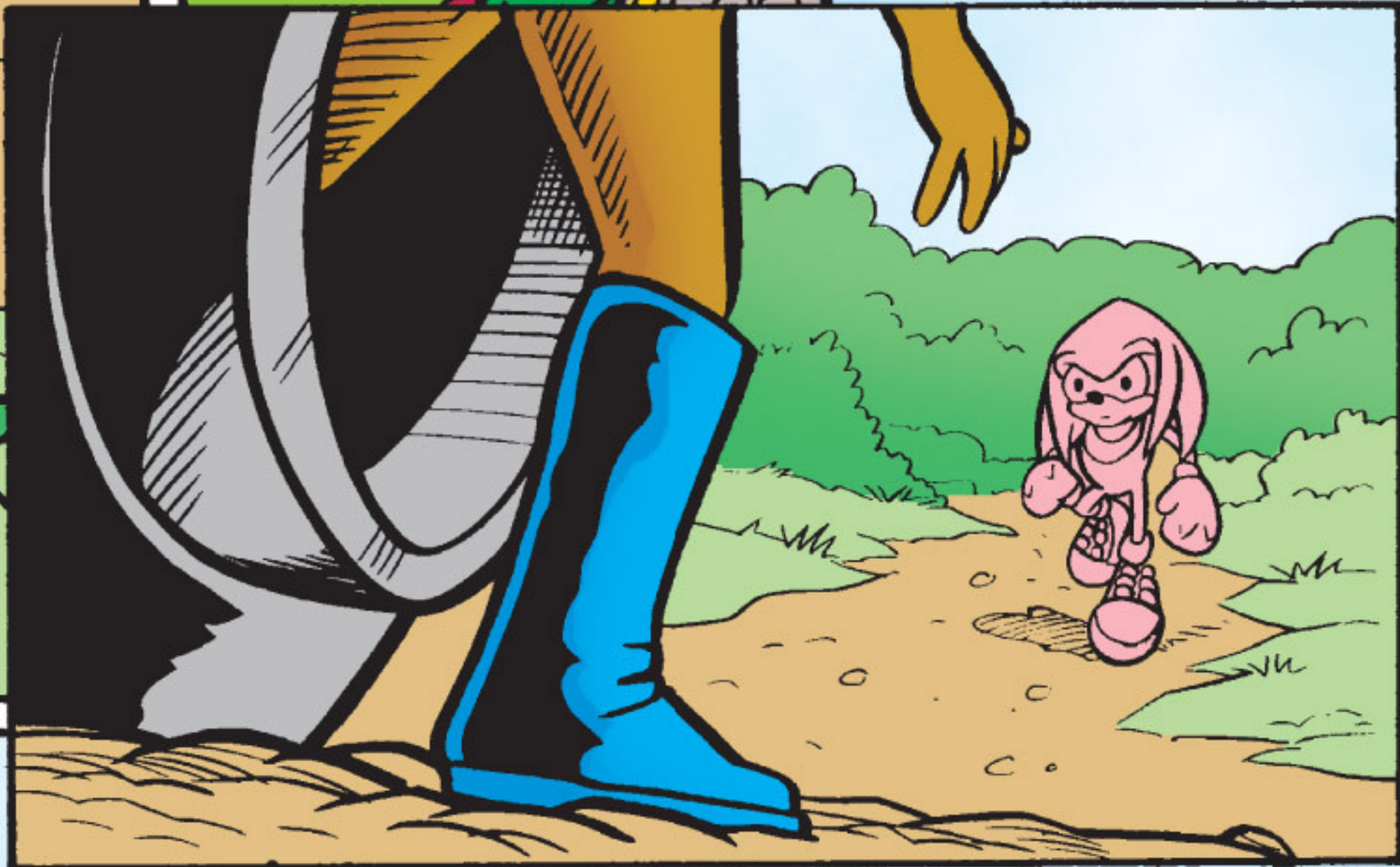
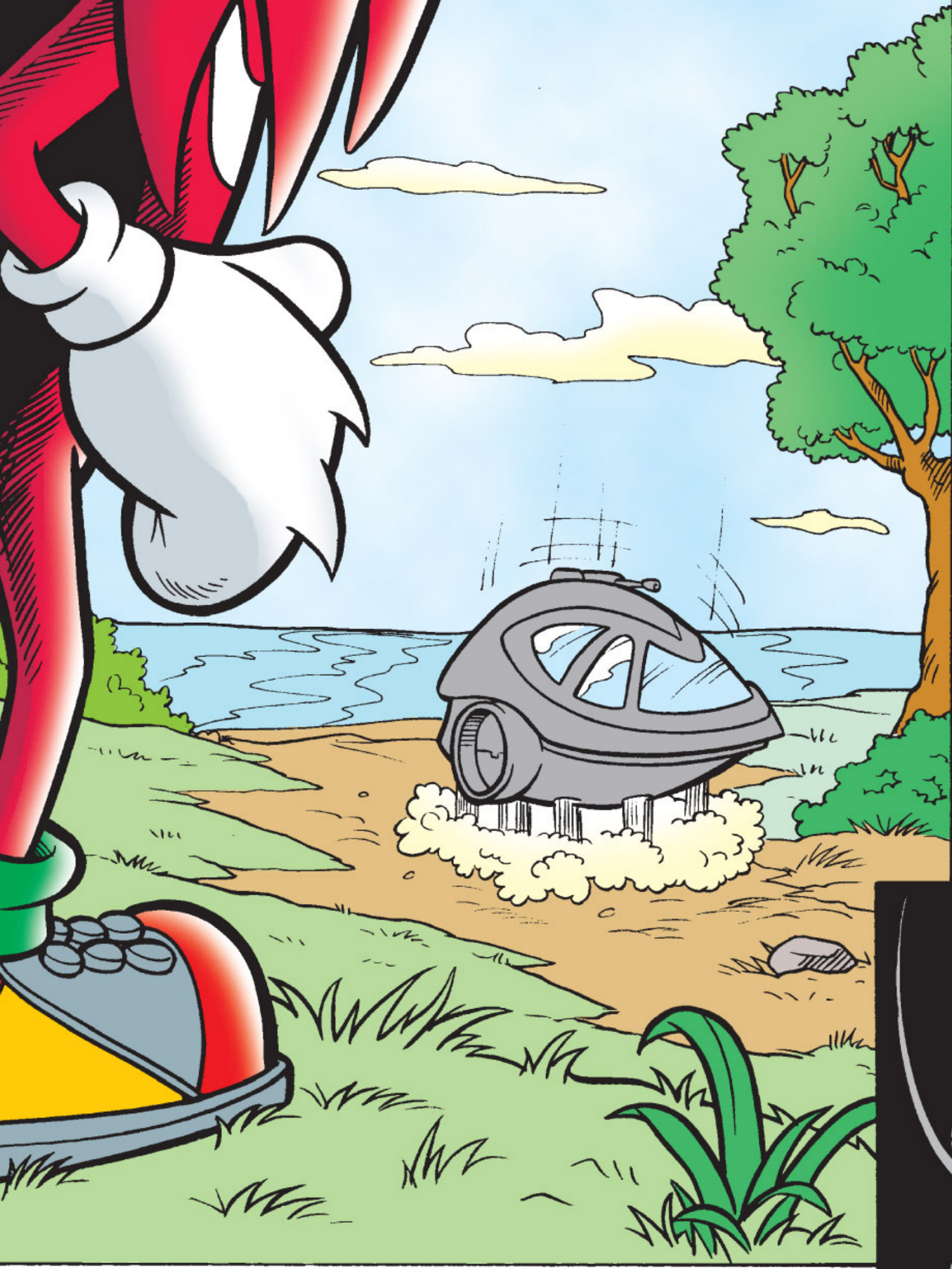
THE ODDS ARE AGAINST AN ENEMY KNOWING KING ACORN'S PERSONAL SIGNAL WITH US, THEREFORE--

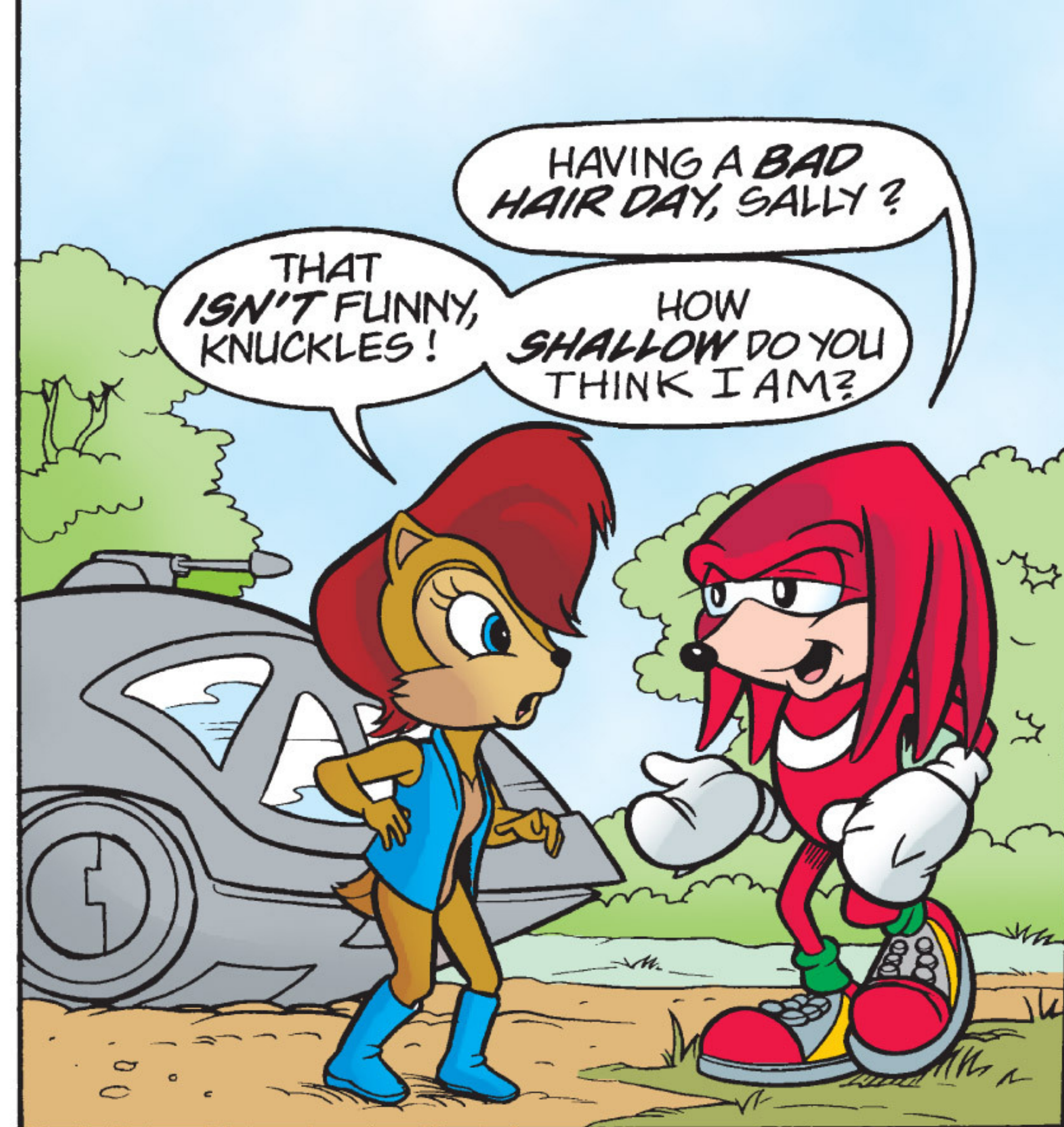
--IT'S MORE THAN LIKELY THE PILOT IS EITHER THE KING HIMSELF OR HIS EMISSARY!

AGREED.

I'M NOW SENDING THE AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE.

AND NOW WE SIT BACK AND AWAIT THE REPLY!

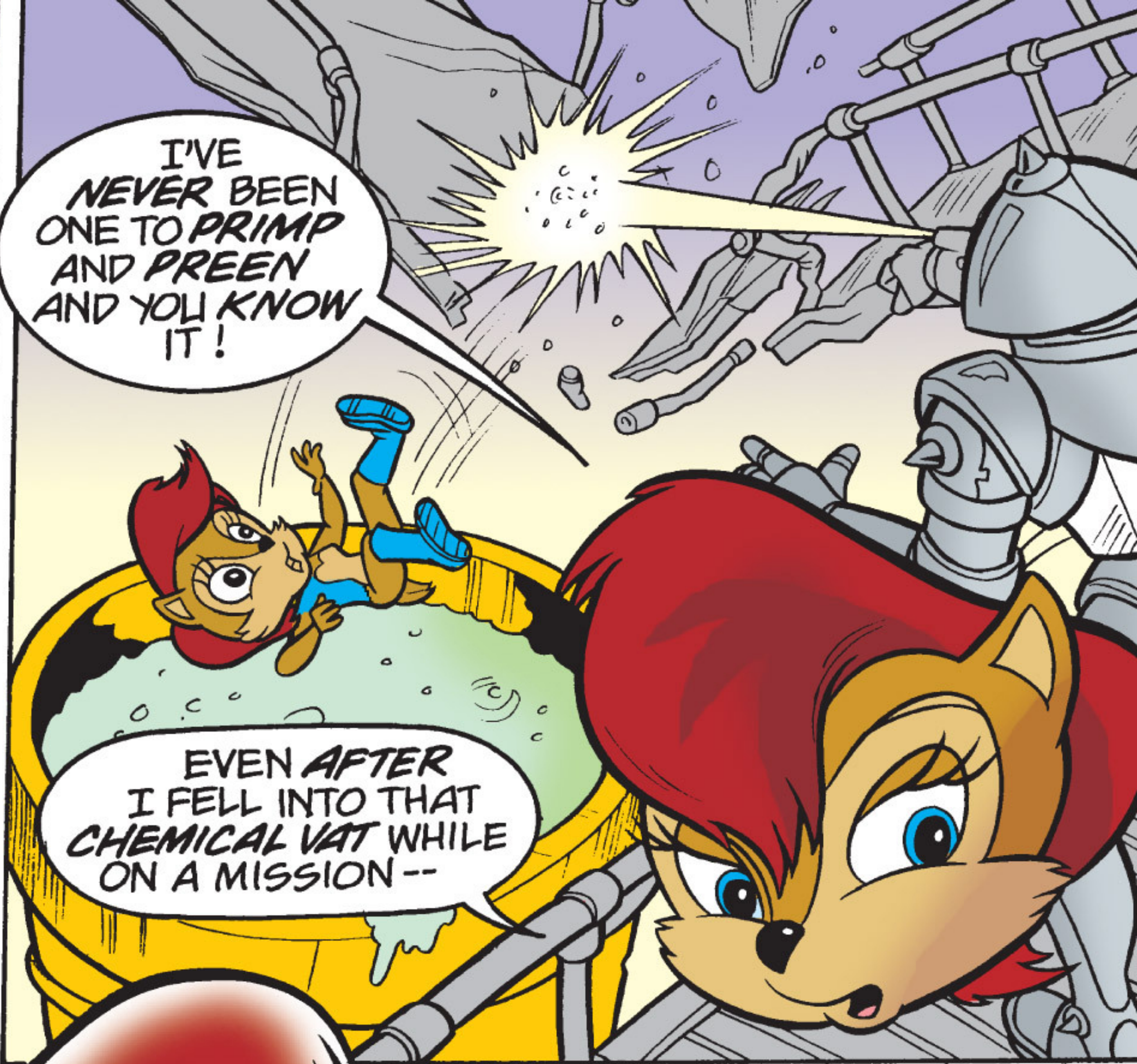




THAT ISN'T FUNNY, KNUCKLES!

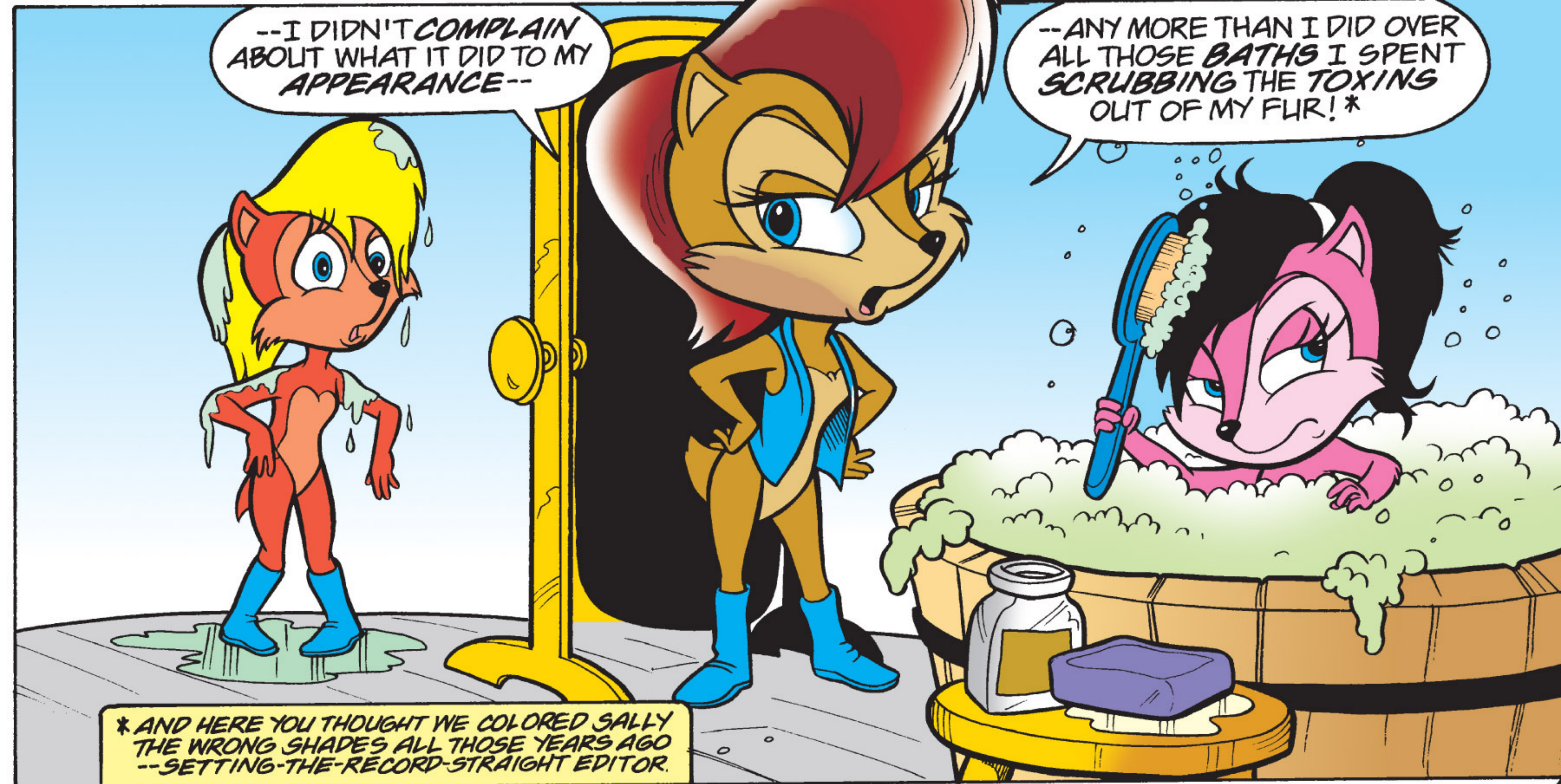
HAVING A **BAD HAIR DAY**, SALLY?

HOW **SHALLOW** DO YOU THINK I AM?



I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO **PRIMP AND PREEN** AND YOU KNOW IT!

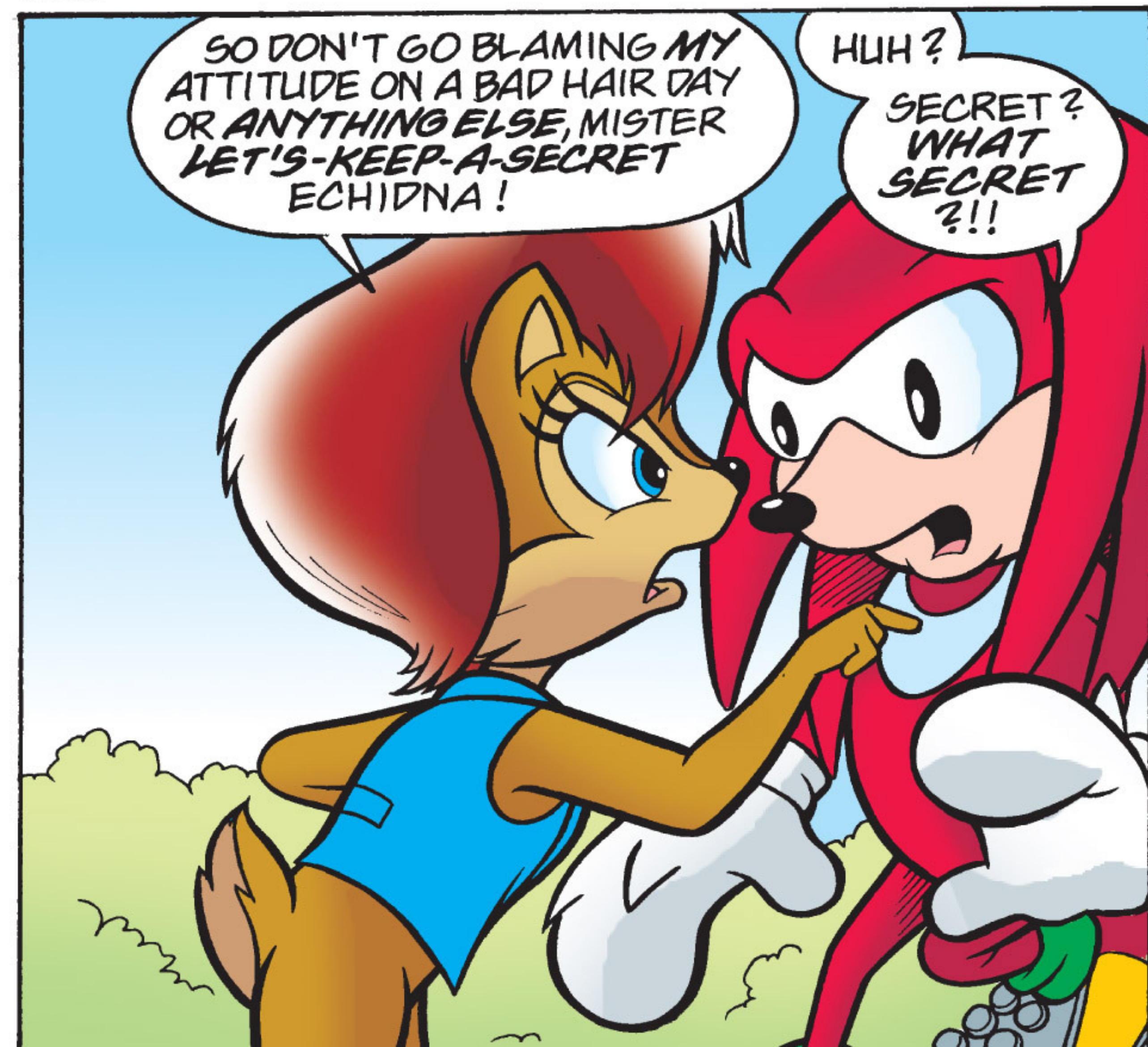
EVEN AFTER I FELL INTO THAT **CHEMICAL VAT** WHILE ON A MISSION --



--I DIDN'T **COMPLAIN** ABOUT WHAT IT DID TO MY **APPEARANCE**--

--ANY MORE THAN I DID OVER ALL THOSE **BATHS** I SPENT **SCRUBBING** THE **TOXINS** OUT OF MY **FUR!***

* AND HERE YOU THOUGHT WE COLORED SALLY THE WRONG SHADES ALL THOSE YEARS AGO --SETTING-THE-RECORD-STRAIGHT EDITOR.



SO DON'T GO **BLAMING** MY **ATTITUDE** ON A **BAD HAIR DAY** OR **ANYTHING ELSE**, MISTER **LET'S-KEEP-A-SECRET** ECHIDNA!

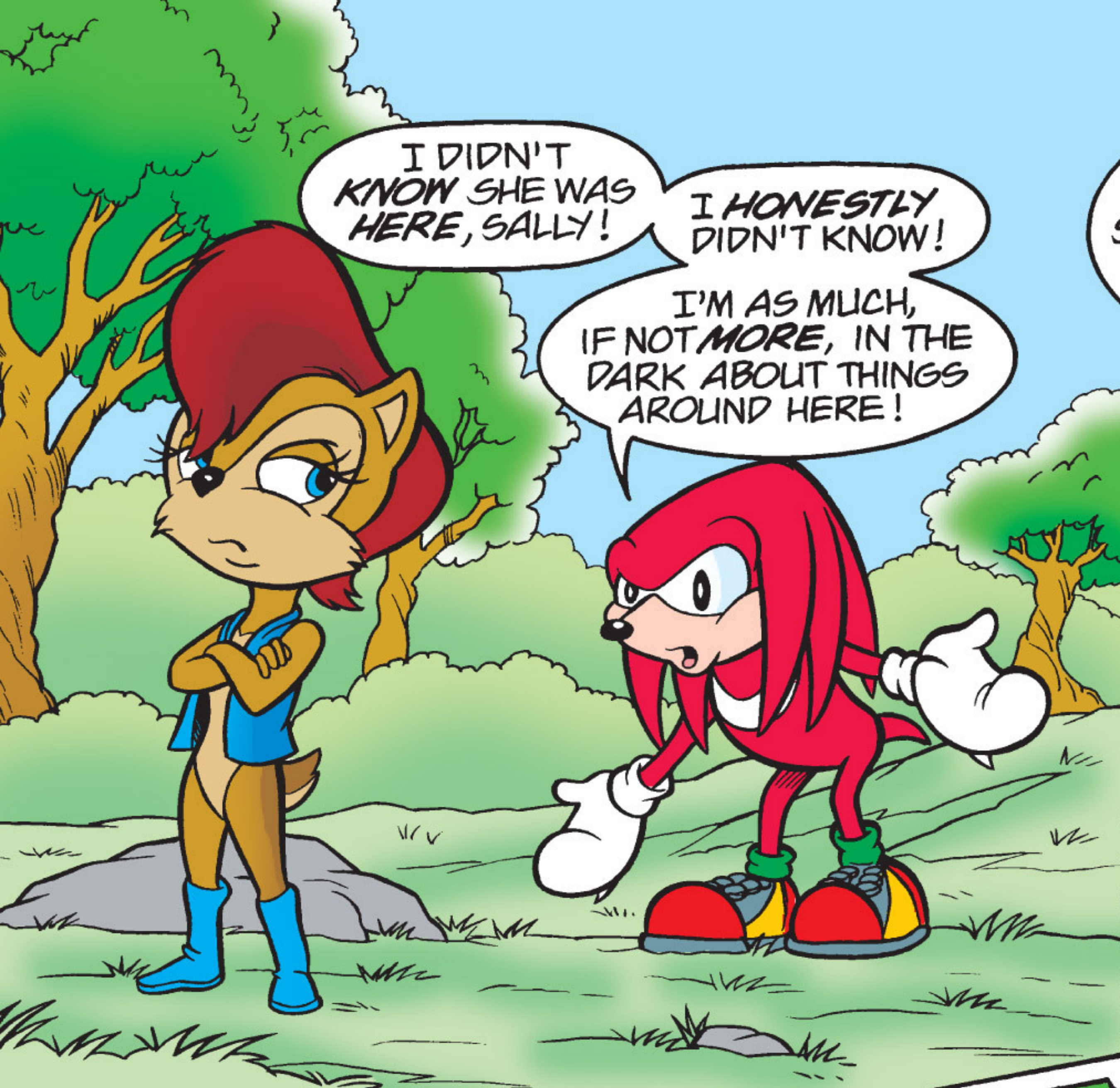
HUH? **SECRET?** **WHAT SECRET?** ?!!



MY MOTHER, YOU CLOD!

YOU KNOW-- THE ONE WHO WAS KEPT IN **COLD STORAGE** ON THIS VERY ISLAND!

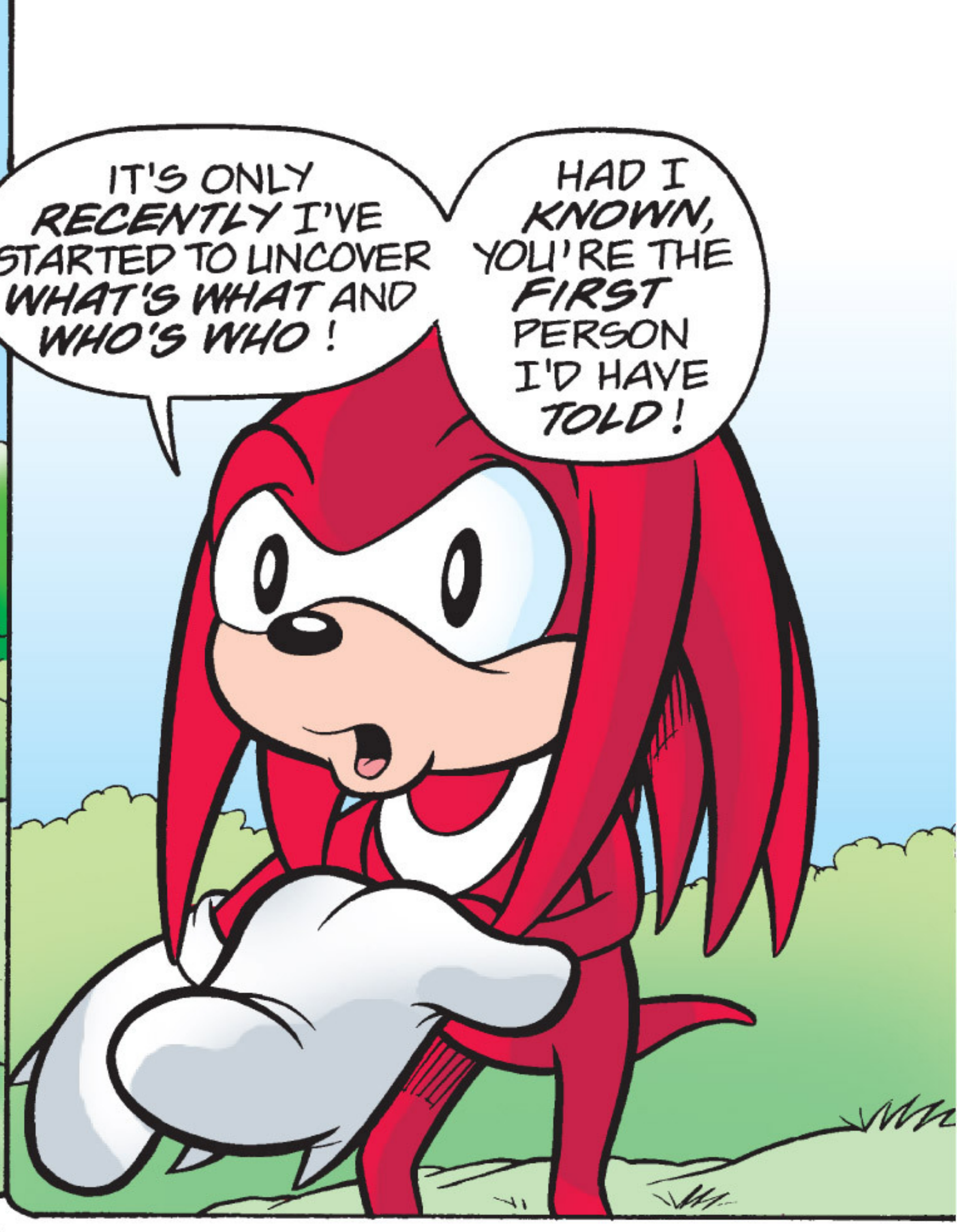
RING **ANY BELLS**, NOW?



I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS HERE, SALLY!

I HONESTLY DIDN'T KNOW!

I'M AS MUCH, IF NOT MORE, IN THE DARK ABOUT THINGS AROUND HERE!



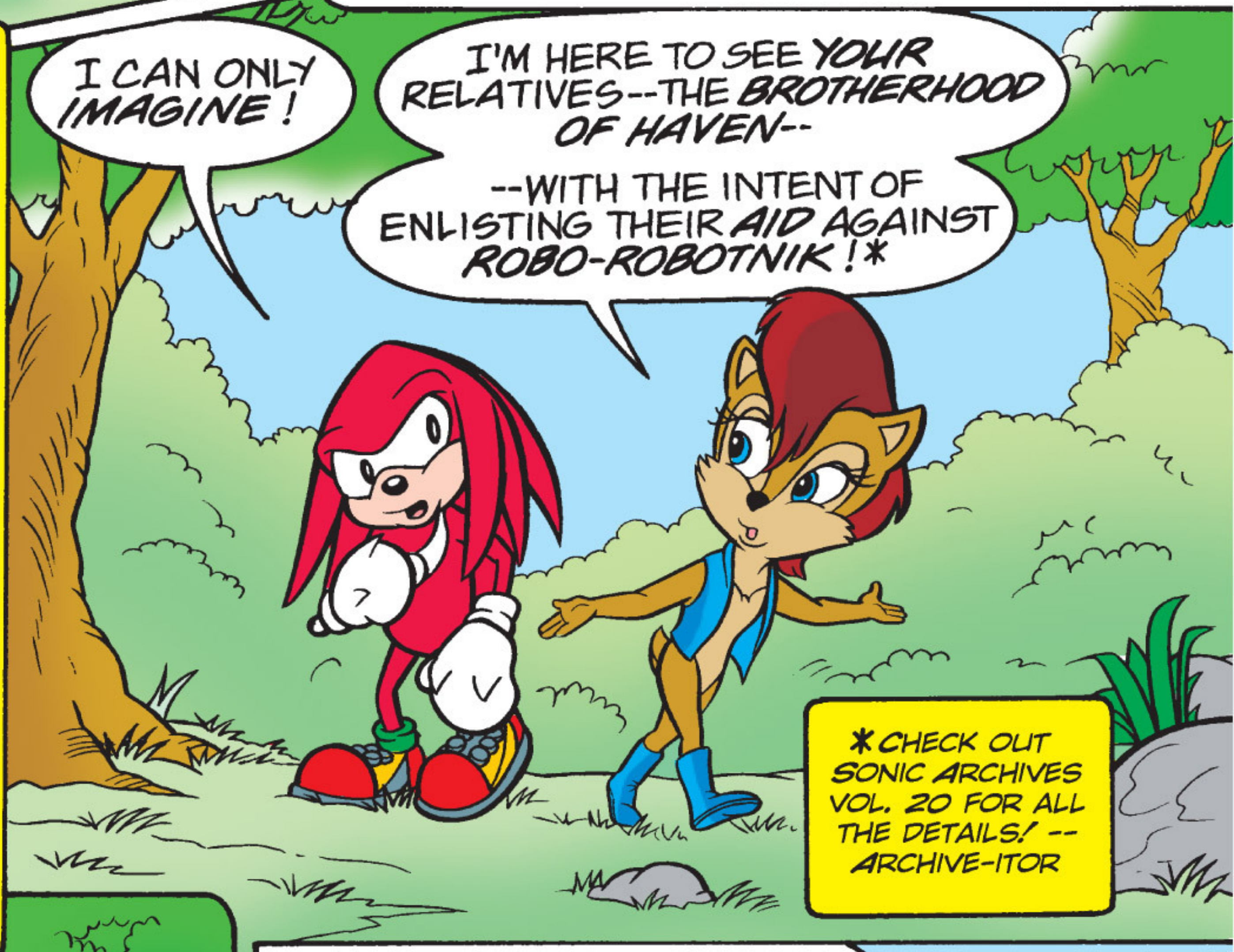
IT'S ONLY RECENTLY I'VE STARTED TO UNCOVER WHAT'S WHAT AND WHO'S WHO!

HAD I KNOWN, YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'D HAVE TOLD!



HOW WOULD I KNOW?

HAVE YOU ANY IDEA OF WHAT MY REAL MISSION HERE IS?

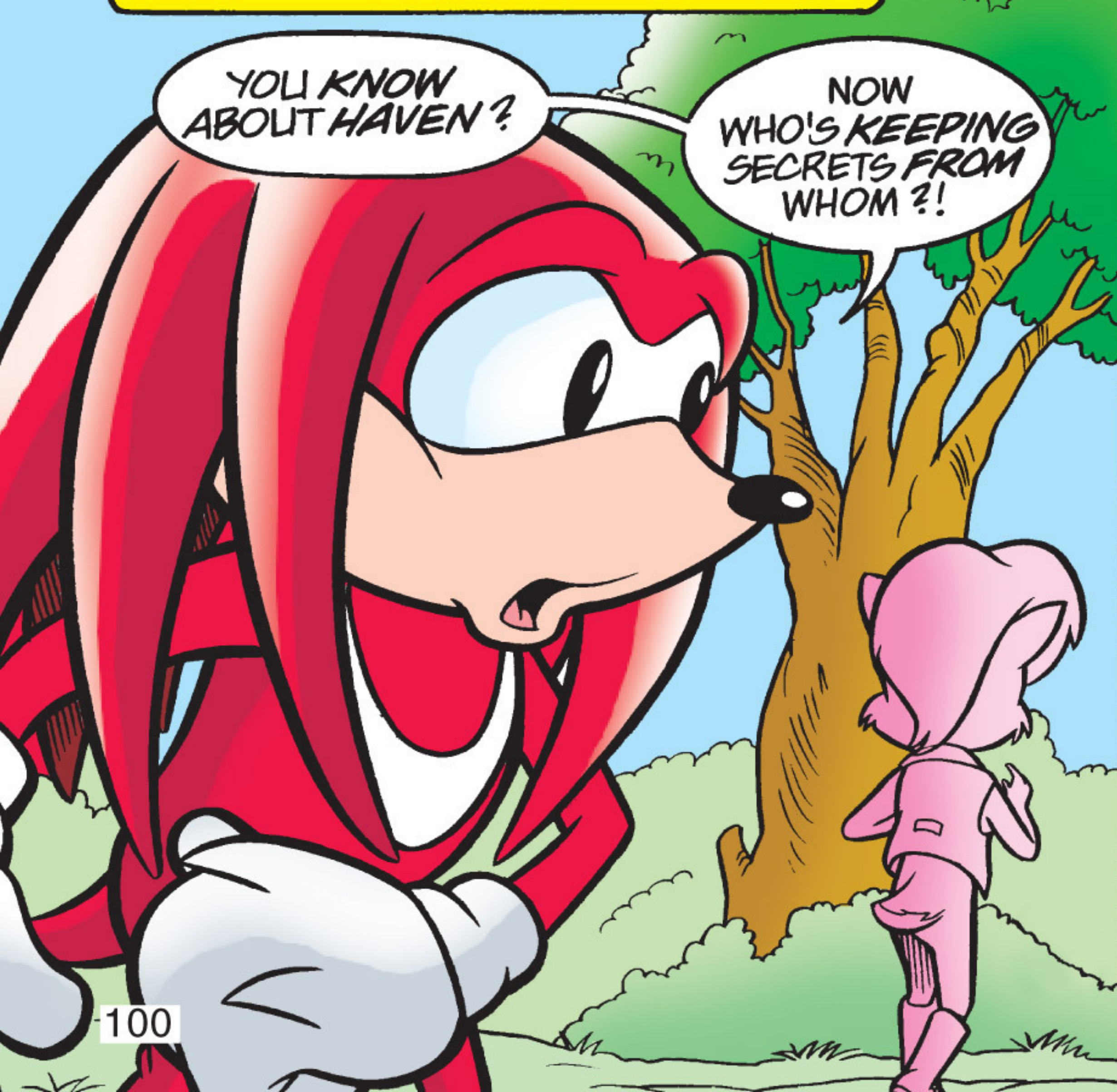


I CAN ONLY IMAGINE!

I'M HERE TO SEE YOUR RELATIVES--THE BROTHERHOOD OF HAVEN--

--WITH THE INTENT OF ENLISTING THEIR AID AGAINST ROBO-ROBOTNIK!*

*CHECK OUT SONIC ARCHIVES VOL. 20 FOR ALL THE DETAILS! -- ARCHIVE-ITOR



YOU KNOW ABOUT HAVEN?

NOW WHO'S KEEPING SECRETS FROM WHOM?!



MY FATHER, APPARENTLY! HE'S THE ONE WHO TOLD ME!

YOUR FATHER? HOW WOULD HE KNOW?

I'M NOT SURE!

FATHER TELLS ME ONLY WHAT HE FEELS I SHOULD KNOW WHEN I SHOULD!

I KNOW THAT STORY ALL TOO WELL!

WHAT KIND OF HELP DO YOU NEED?

MORE THAN YOU ALONE COULD HANDLE, KNUCKLES!

HUH?

BAMF!

GREETINGS, YOUR HIGHNESS!

I BID YOU WELCOME ON BEHALF OF THE BROTHERHOOD AND ALL WHO RESIDE ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!

SPECTRE!

AND DEO VOLENTE!

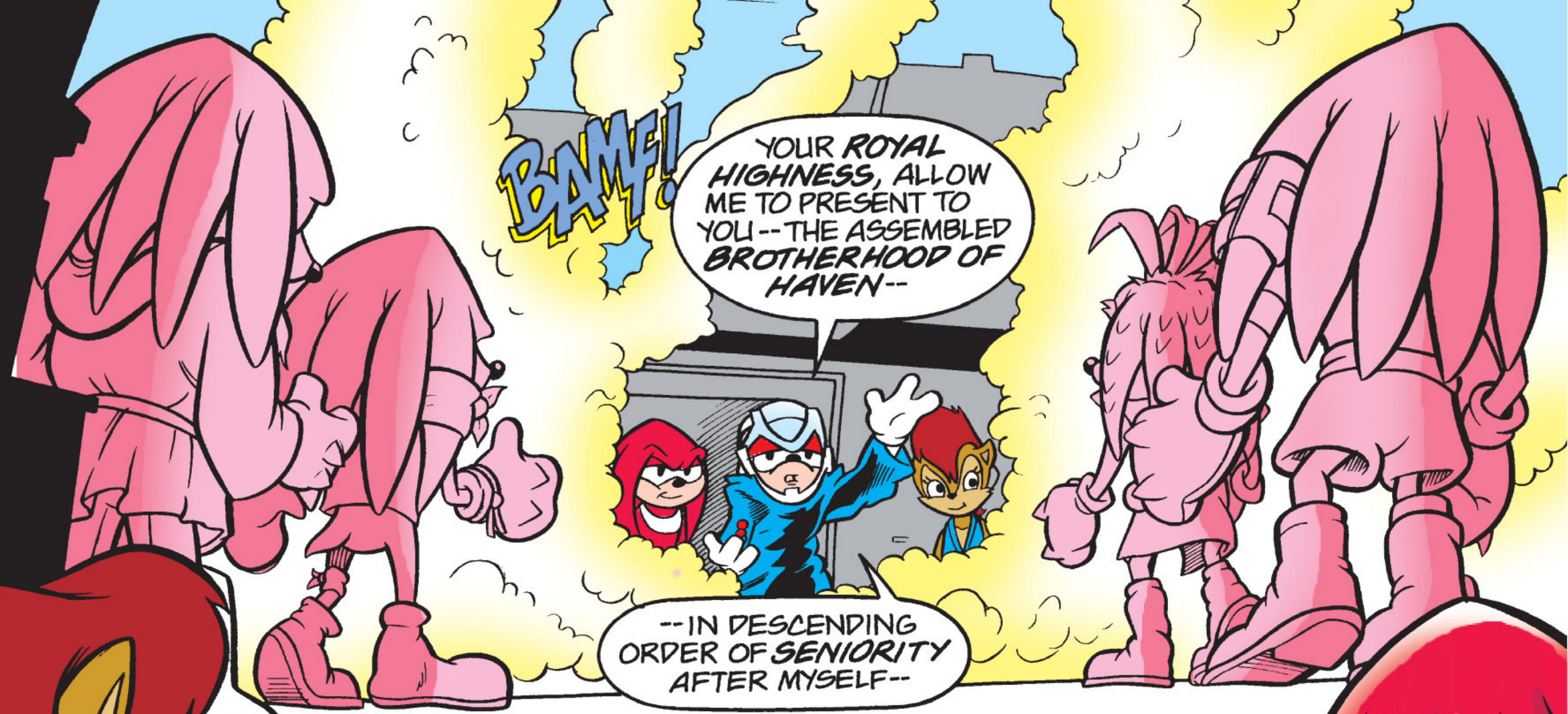
YOU MEAN YOU GUYS KNEW THE PRINCESS WAS COMING?

NOT AT ALL!

WE DO, HOWEVER, HAVE THE RESOURCES TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO ANY GIVEN SITUATION!

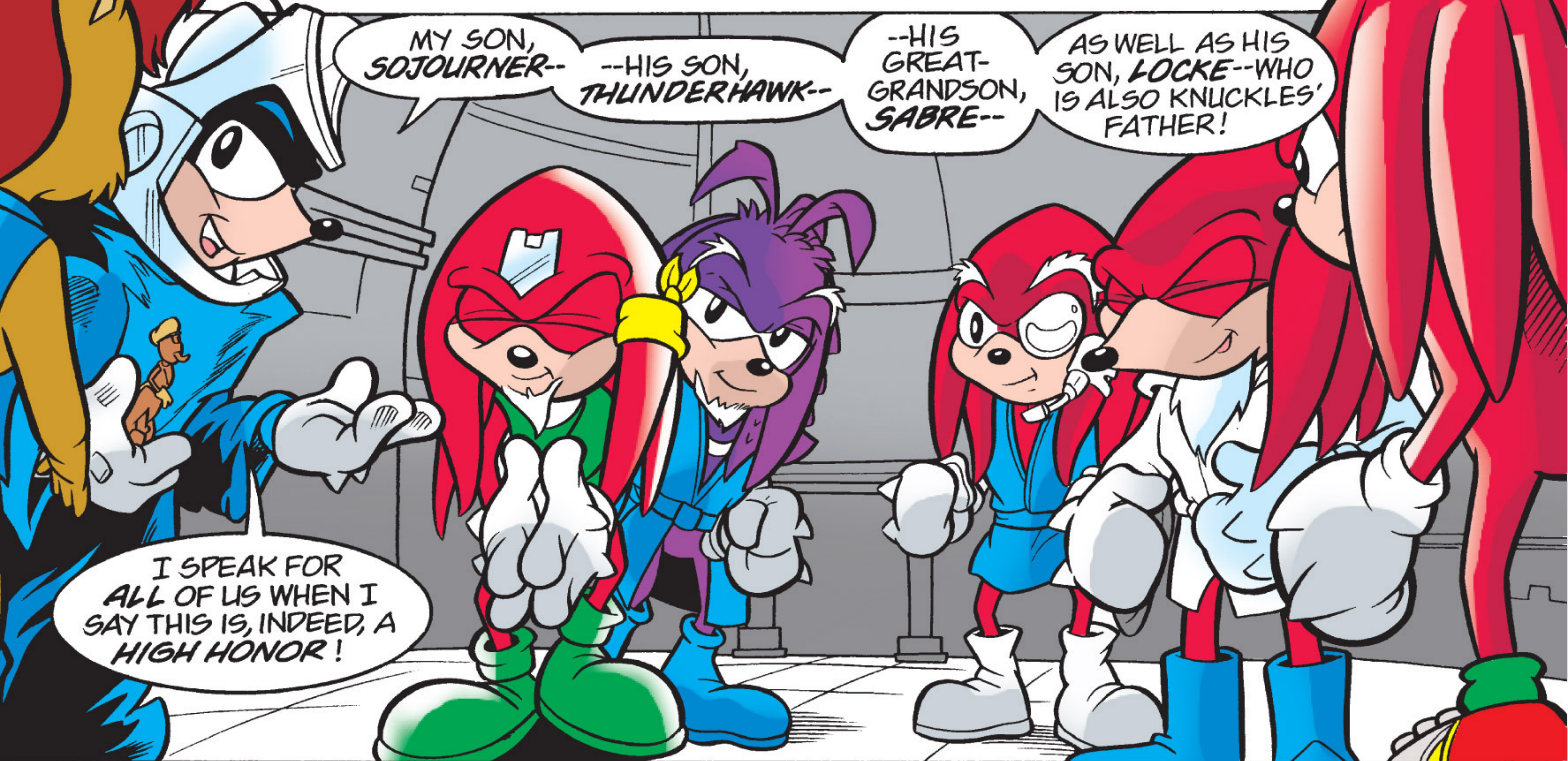
WE UNDERSTAND TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE-- -- AND SINCE THERE IS MUCH TO DISCUSS--

-- SHALL WE PROCEED TO HAVEN?



YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, ALLOW ME TO PRESENT TO YOU--THE ASSEMBLED BROTHERHOOD OF HAVEN--

--IN DESCENDING ORDER OF SENIORITY AFTER MYSELF--



MY SON, SOJOURNER--

--HIS SON, THUNDERHAWK--

--HIS GREAT-GRANDSON, SABRE--

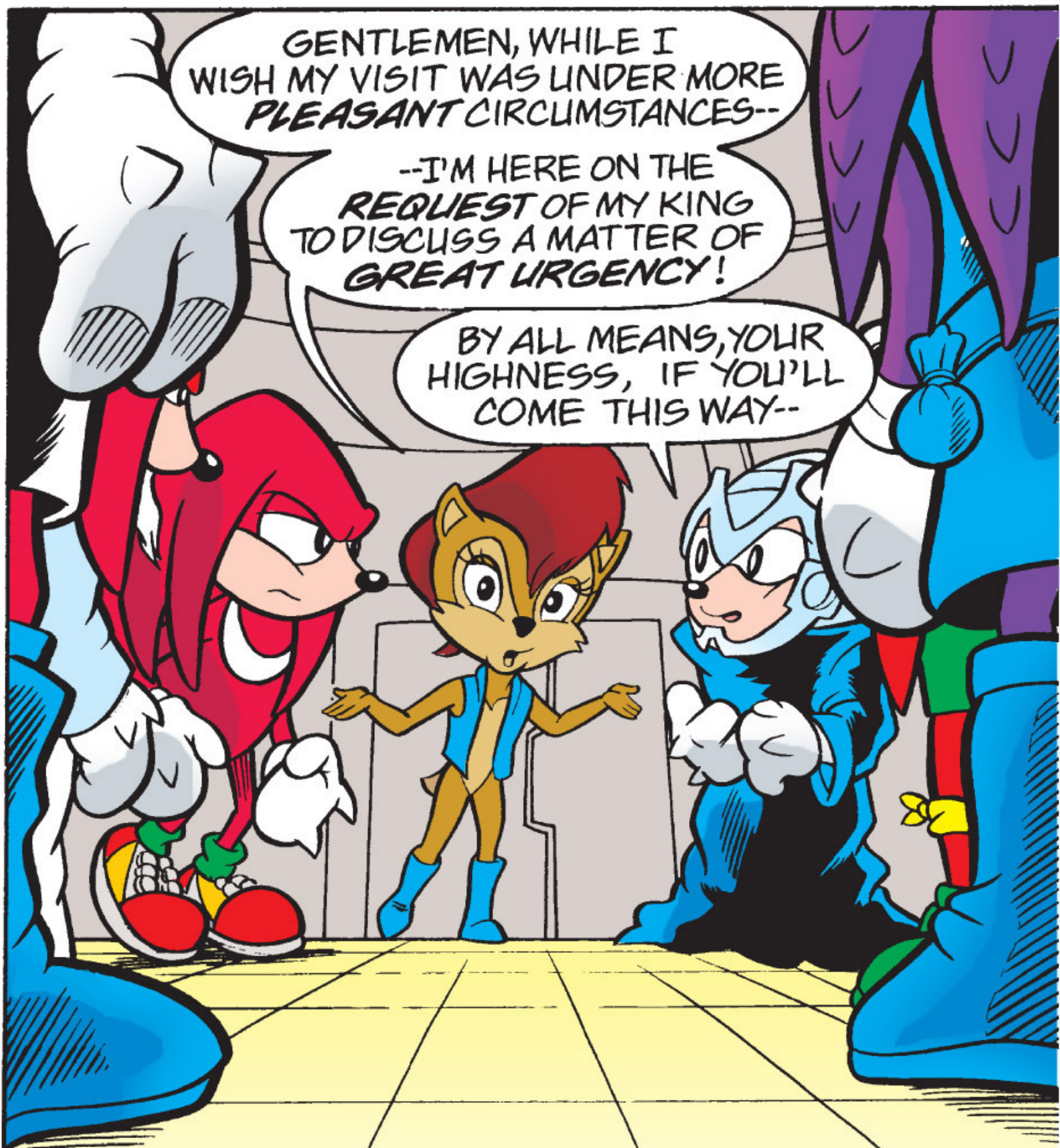
AS WELL AS HIS SON, LOCKE--WHO IS ALSO KNUCKLES' FATHER!

I SPEAK FOR ALL OF US WHEN I SAY THIS IS, INDEED, A HIGH HONOR!



AND IF I MAY BE PERMITTED A MORE PERSONAL OBSERVATION--

--THE LITTLE GIRL I OBSERVED YEARS AGO HAS GROWN INTO QUITE THE YOUNG LADY!



GENTLEMEN, WHILE I WISH MY VISIT WAS UNDER MORE PLEASANT CIRCUMSTANCES--

--I'M HERE ON THE REQUEST OF MY KING TO DISCUSS A MATTER OF GREAT URGENCY!

BY ALL MEANS, YOUR HIGHNESS, IF YOU'LL COME THIS WAY--



--WE CAN CONVEENE IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM!



I TRUST THE FACILITIES MEET WITH YOUR APPROVAL!

THIS WILL DO VERY WELL! THANK YOU!



WHAT'S THE MATTER, SON?

YOU SEEM QUITE DISTRESSED!

WHAT DO I SAY, DAD?

THAT BECAUSE YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE KEPT SECRETS FROM ME, IT NOW AFFECTS MY FRIENDS, TOO?

YOU WERE NEVER MEANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH THE PRINCESS, KNUCKLES!

MAYBE THAT WAS AN INCORRECT DECISION ON MY PART, BUT I WAS USING PAST HISTORY AS MY GUIDE!



SO, I DON'T HAVE ANY SAY WHO I CAN HAVE AS FRIENDS?

NOT IN THIS CASE!

SHE'S POSSIBLY GOING TO BE THE LEADER OF HER PEOPLE!

HER BEST INTERESTS MAY NOT COINCIDE WITH YOURS!

HOW SO?

"HER PEOPLE HAVE TRIED TO PEACEFULLY CO-EXIST WITH THOSE WHO WOULD PREY ON THEM, THUS LEAVING THEMSELVES OPEN TO ATTACK!"

"INSTEAD OF TAKING WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY TO PREVENT THIS, THEY END UP IN A CONSTANT STATE OF WAR!"

... AND IF **ROBO-ROBOTNIK**--(OR ROBOTNIK MACH 2, OR WHATEVER HE CALLS HIMSELF)--SUCCEEDS WITH HIS PLANS, THEN NO ONE ON MOBILIS WILL BE **SAFE!**

THEREFORE, I **IMPLORE** YOU FOR YOUR **ASSISTANCE** IN DEFEATING THIS **MALEVOLENT FORCE!**

ON A MORE **PERSONAL** LEVEL, OUR ROYAL PHYSICIAN IS HAVING **DIFFICULTY** MAINTAINING LIFE SUPPORT FOR MY **MOTHER, QUEEN ACORN**--

--SO, IF THERE IS ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO **ALLEVIATE** HER CONDITION, WE'D BE **IMMENSELY GRATEFUL!**

BEFORE WE DISCUSS YOUR **INITIAL REQUEST**, REGARDING THE CONDITION OF YOUR **MOTHER**--

--WE KEPT HER ALIVE THROUGH METHODS **COMPATIBLE** WITH **ECHIDNA PHYSIOLOGY!**

THERE WAS--IS-- NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO FOR HER! I'M SORRY!

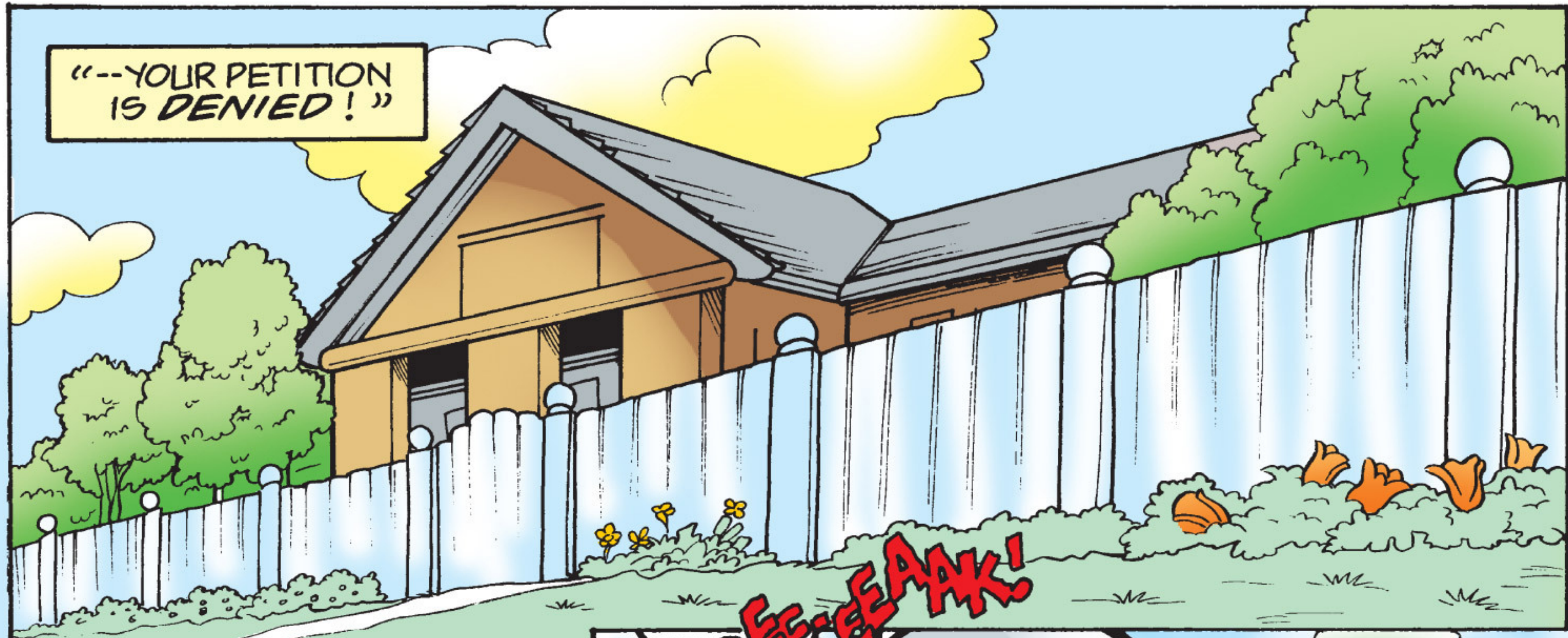
AS FOR YOUR **CURRENT PREDICAMENT** WITH THE **DESPOT ROBO-ROBOTNIK**--

--ARE YOUR PEOPLE WILLING TO **ENGAGE** HIM USING **EVERY MEANS AVAILABLE**--

-- INCLUDING THE **LATEST IN MUNITIONS TECHNOLOGY?**

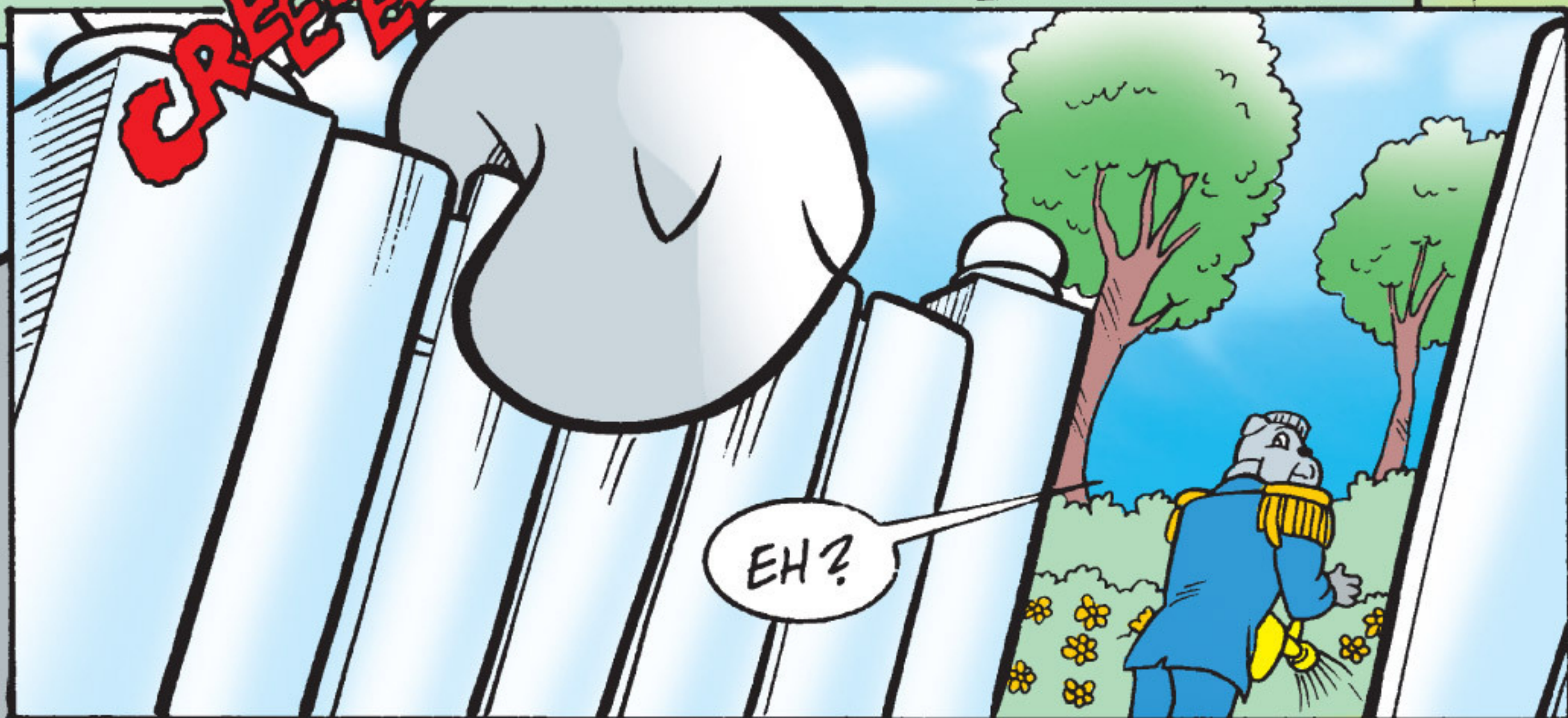
YOU KNOW I CAN'T AGREE TO THAT, BROTHER **SPECTRE!**

IF THAT IS TO BE YOUR **FINAL WORD**, YOUR HIGHNESS--



--YOUR PETITION IS DENIED!

CREE-EAAK!

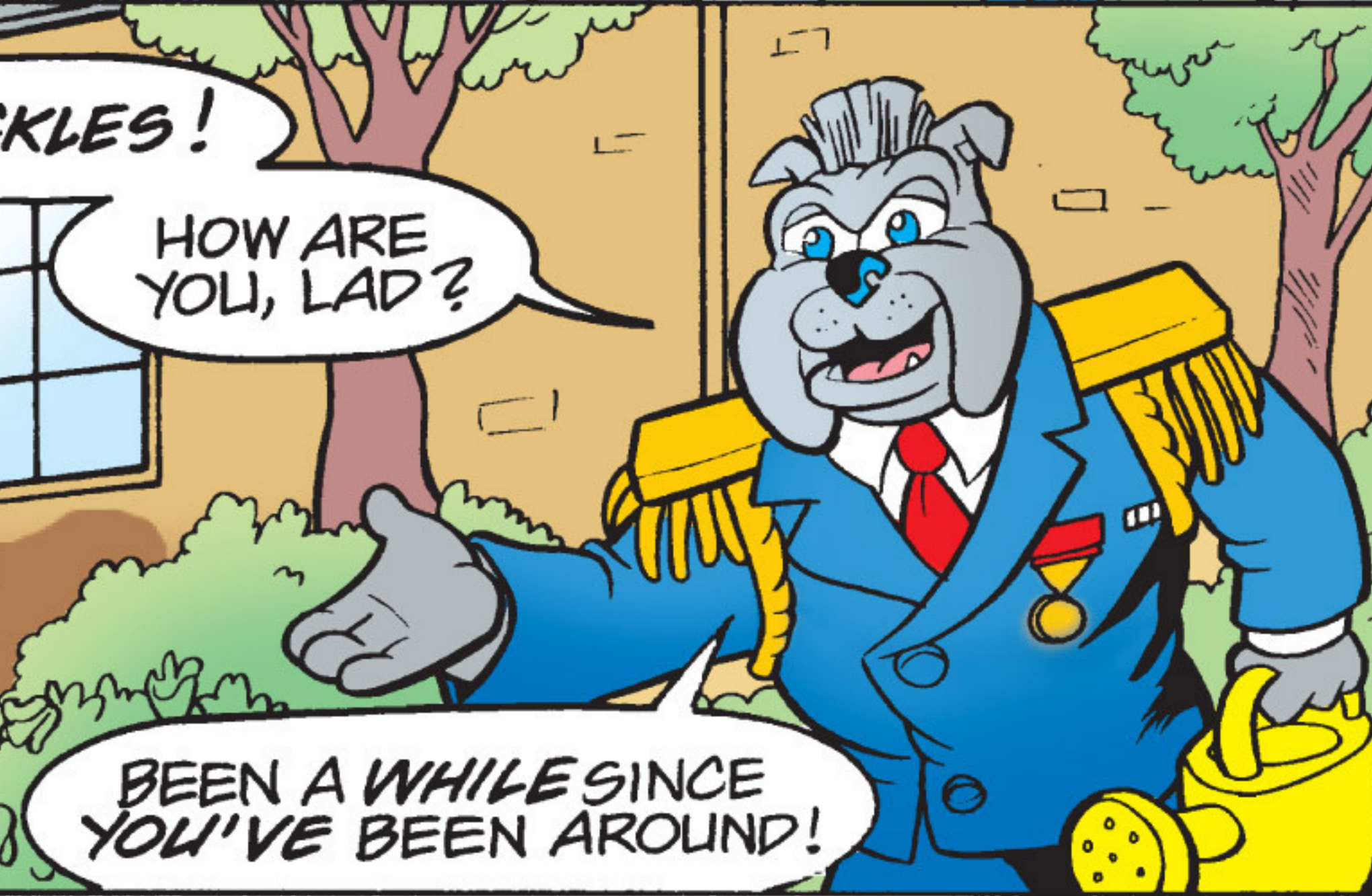


EH?



KNUCKLES!

HOW ARE YOU, LAD?



BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU'VE BEEN AROUND!



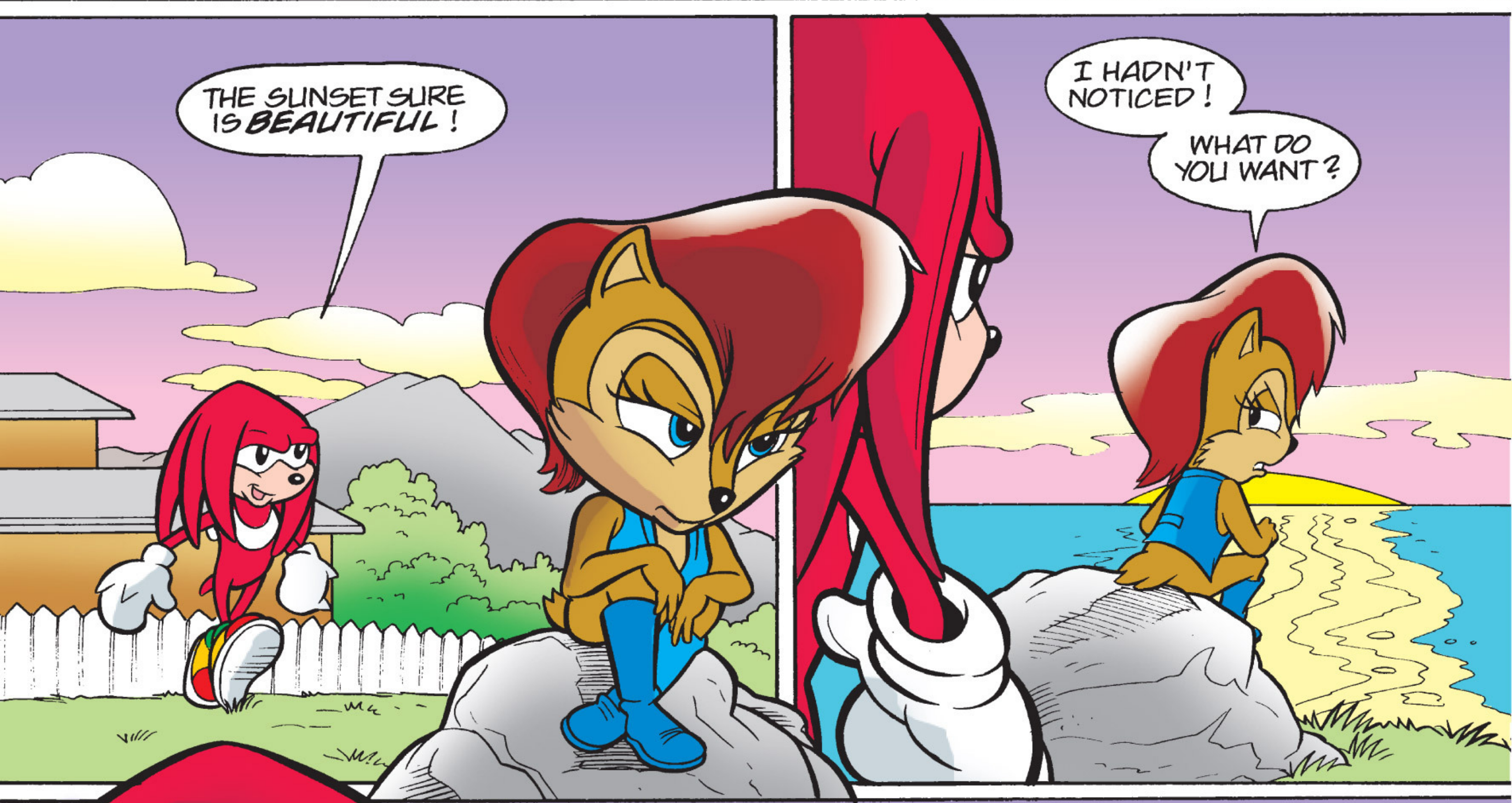
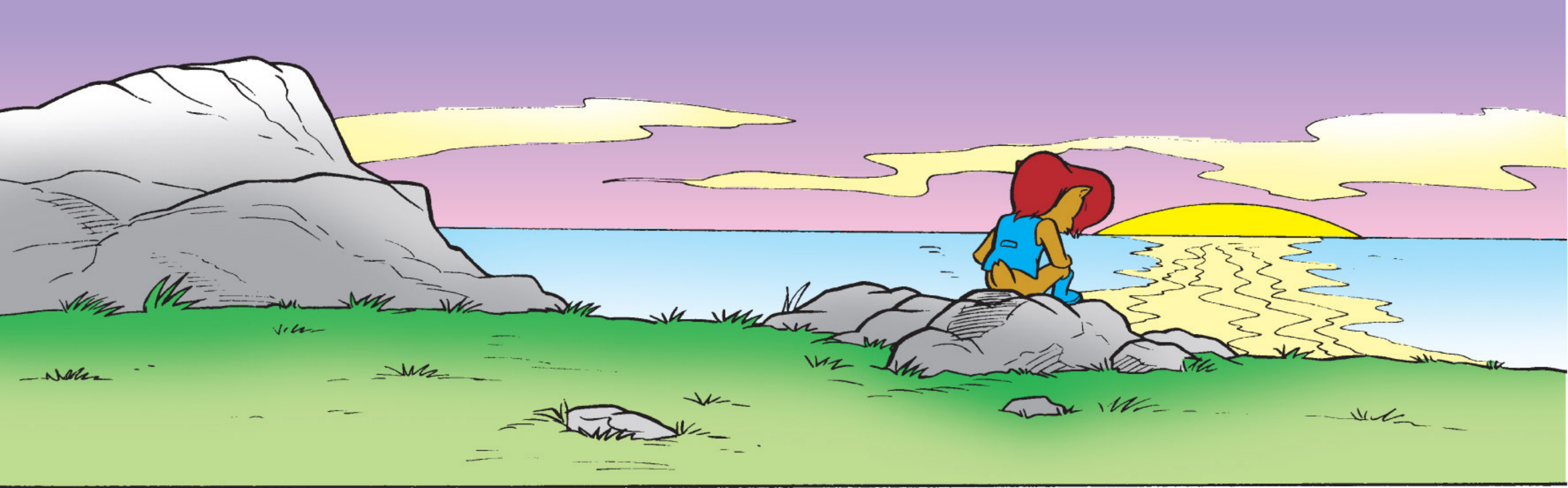
MOTHER WILL BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

I HAVE TO ADMIT, I'VE MISSED HER COOKING--

--BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I CAME!



I WAS HOPING YOU COULD TELL ME IF PRINCESS SALLY IS HERE!



THE SUNSET SURE IS BEAUTIFUL!

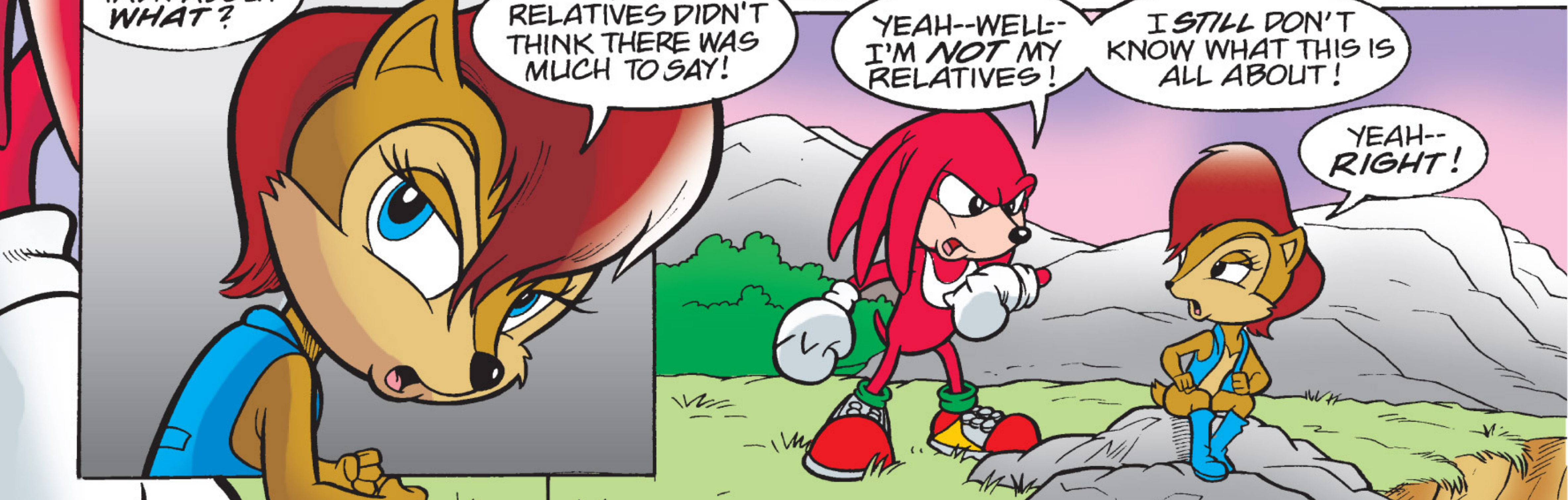
I HADN'T NOTICED!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?



YOU LEFT IN A BIT OF A HURRY BACK THERE!

WE NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO EVEN TALK!



TALK ABOUT WHAT?

YOUR RELATIVES DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS MUCH TO SAY!

YEAH--WELL--I'M NOT MY RELATIVES!

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

YEAH--RIGHT!



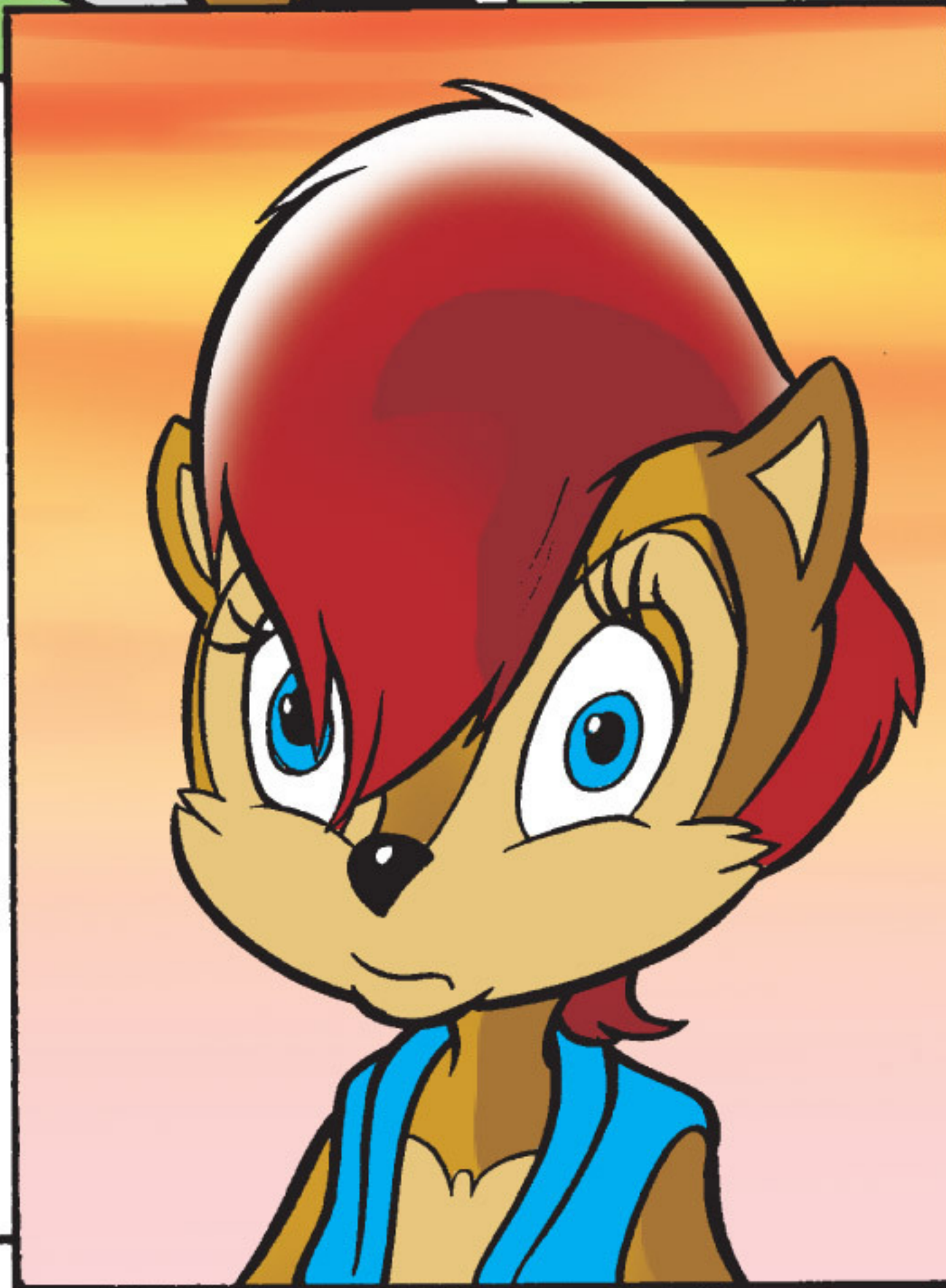
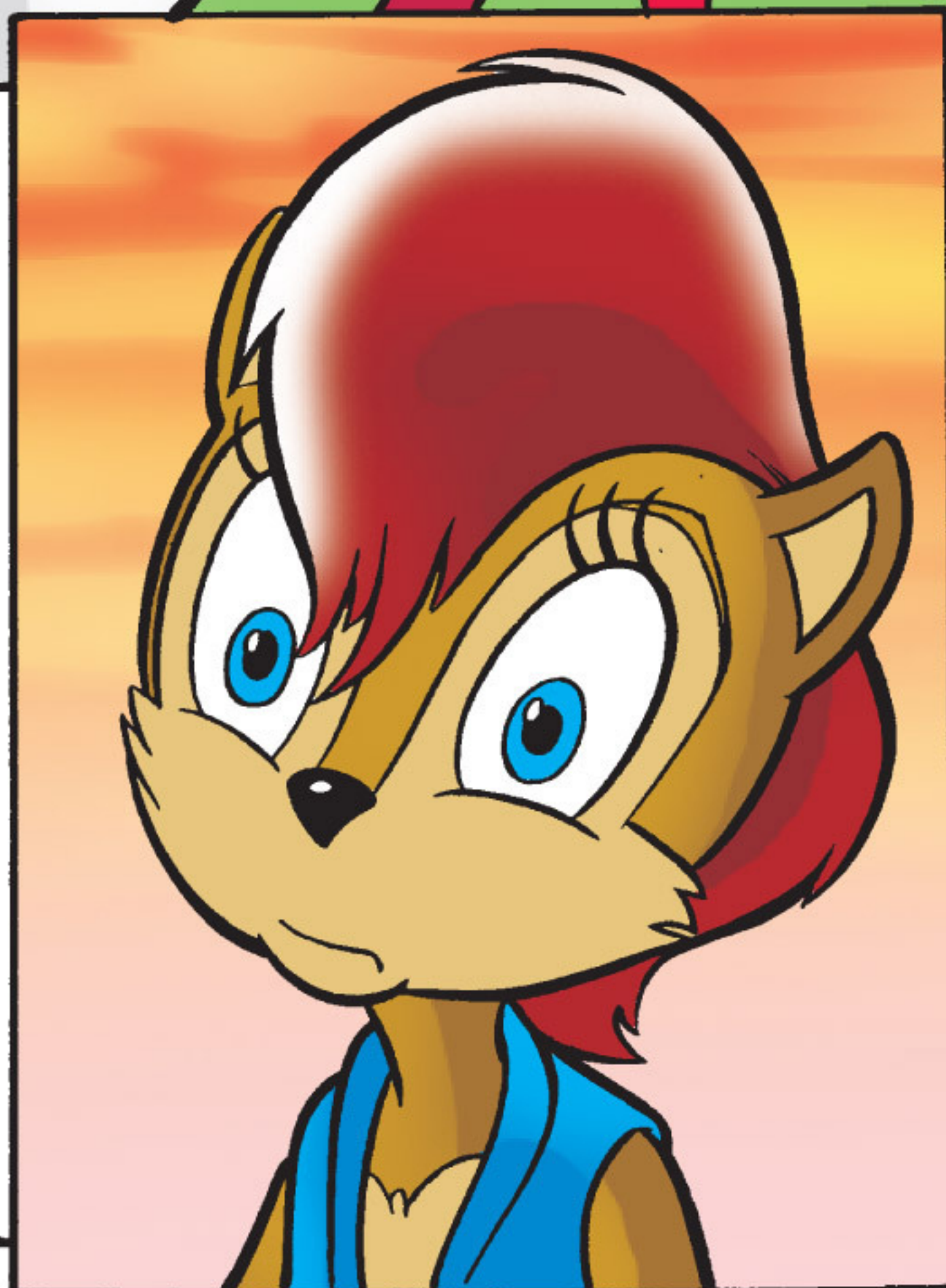
Y'KNOW--

--OUT OF EVERYONE I KNOW OF--

--I FIGURED YOU, MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, WOULD UNDERSTAND!

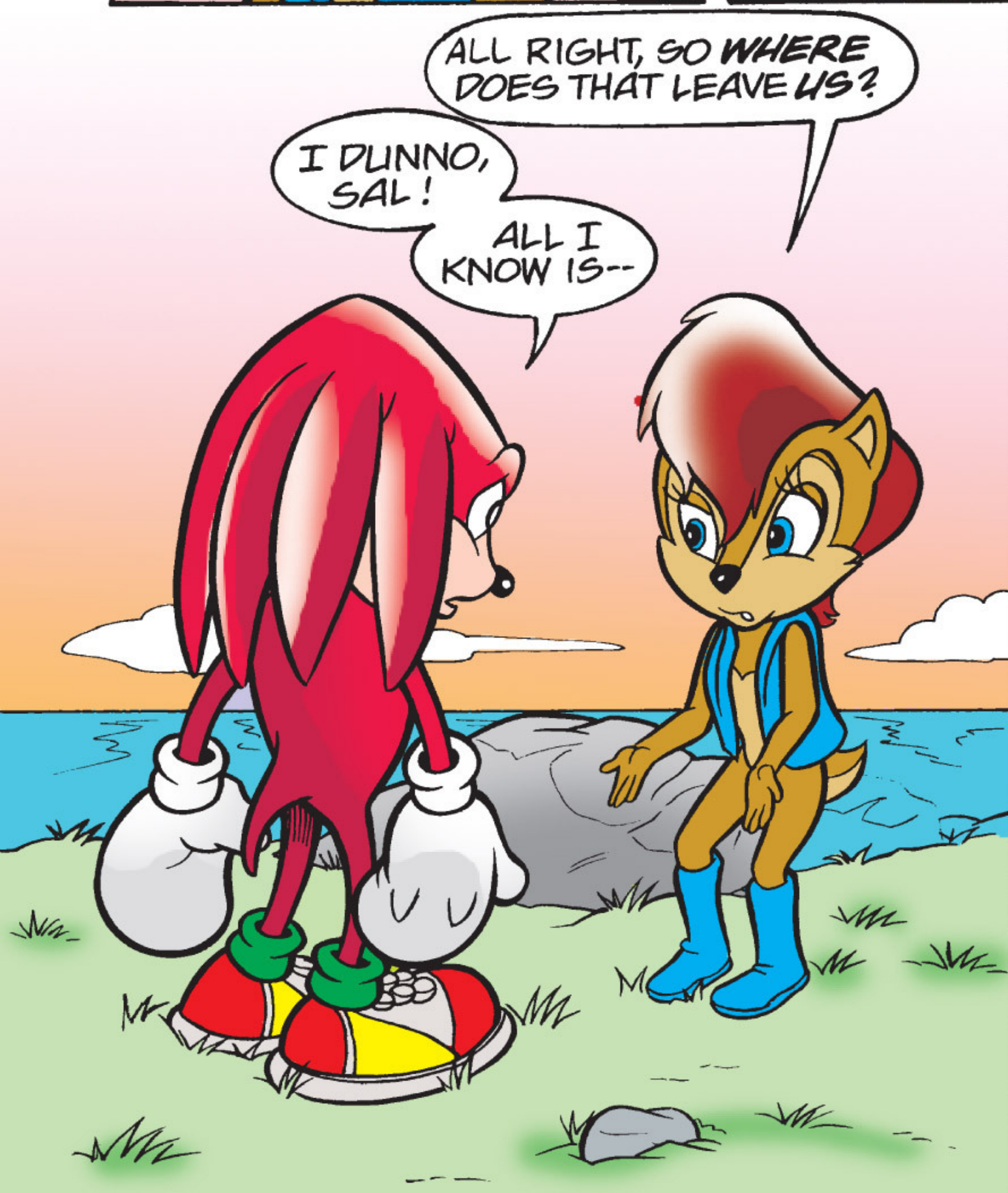


AFTER ALL, DID YOUR FATHER TELL YOU EVERYTHING WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP?



NO.

HE DIDN'T.



ALL RIGHT, SO WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US?

I DUNNO, SAL!

ALL I KNOW IS--



--EVEN THOUGH THINGS ARE MORE COMPLICATED NOW--

--I'M STILL YOUR FRIEND!

THAT'S GOTTA COUNT FOR SOMETHING, RIGHT?

I USED TO THINK SO BEFORE!

NOW--I'M NOT SO SURE!

LOOK AT IT THIS WAY--

--IT'S A STRANGE WORLD OUT THERE--

--BUT AS LONG AS YOU KNOW WHO YOUR FRIENDS ARE--

--YOU CAN GET THROUGH ANYTHING!

HOW ELSE DO YOU THINK I GOT THROUGH SOME VERY LONELY DAYS WHEN I WAS GROWING UP?

I HAD YOU FOR A FRIEND--

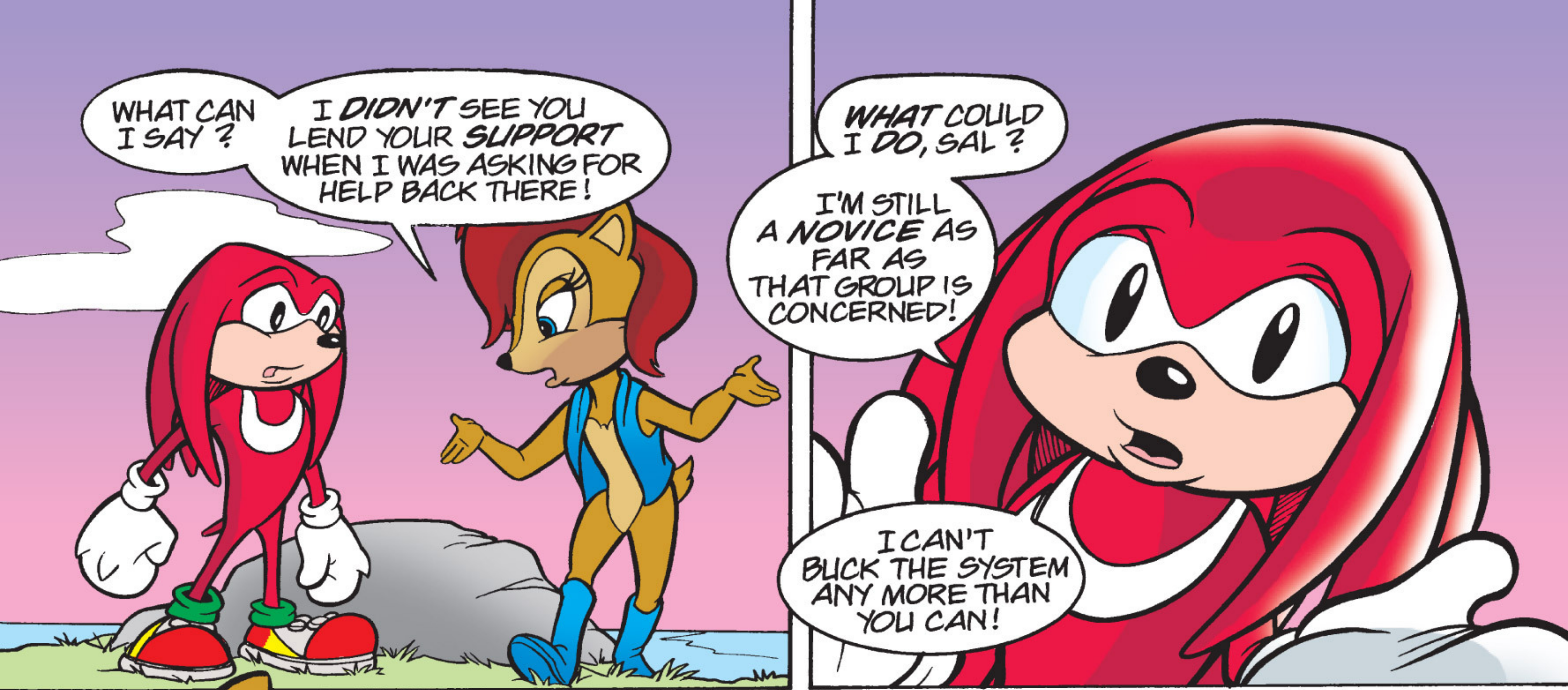
--SOMEONE I COULD SHARE THINGS WITH--

--NOT TO MENTION SOMEONE I COULD RELATE TO!

REMEMBER ALL THOSE LONG AFTERNOONS WE'D PLAY GAMES AND TALK ABOUT STUFF?

HOW COULD I FORGET?

SO, HOW CAN YOU HONESTLY THINK I WOULD'VE KEPT THE NEWS OF YOUR MOTHER A SECRET, HAD I KNOWN?



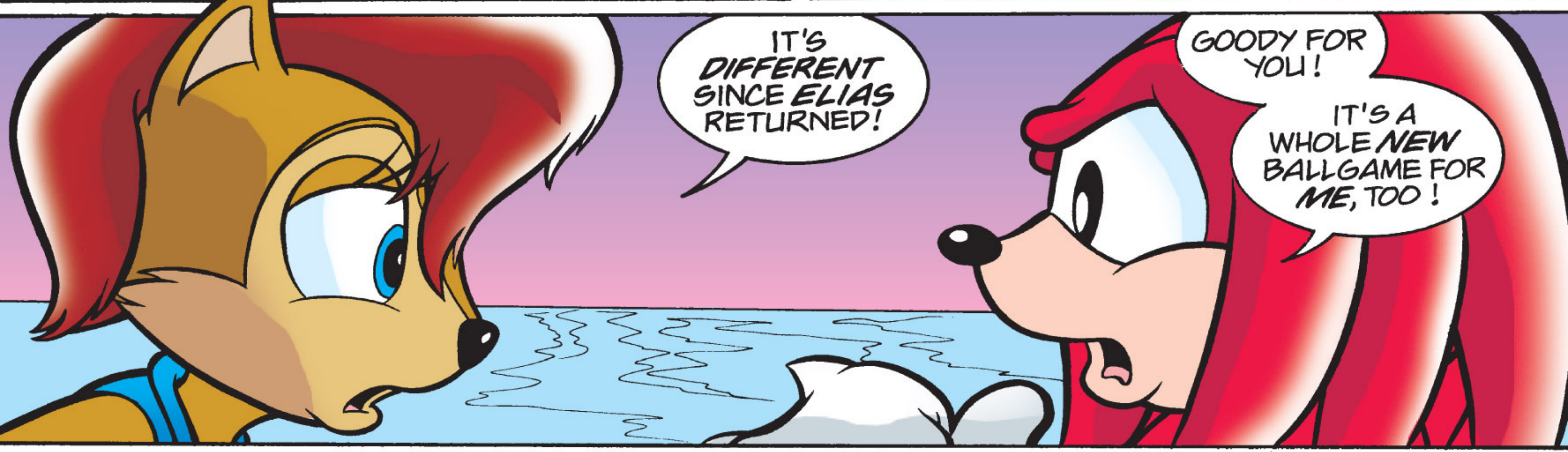
WHAT CAN I SAY?

I DIDN'T SEE YOU LEND YOUR SUPPORT WHEN I WAS ASKING FOR HELP BACK THERE!

WHAT COULD I DO, SAL?

I'M STILL A NOVICE AS FAR AS THAT GROUP IS CONCERNED!

I CAN'T BUCK THE SYSTEM ANY MORE THAN YOU CAN!



IT'S DIFFERENT SINCE ELIAS RETURNED!

GOODY FOR YOU!

IT'S A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME FOR ME, TOO!



SALLY, I FULLY BELIEVE THE BROTHERHOOD SHOULD JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST ROBO-ROBOTNIK!

YOU DO?

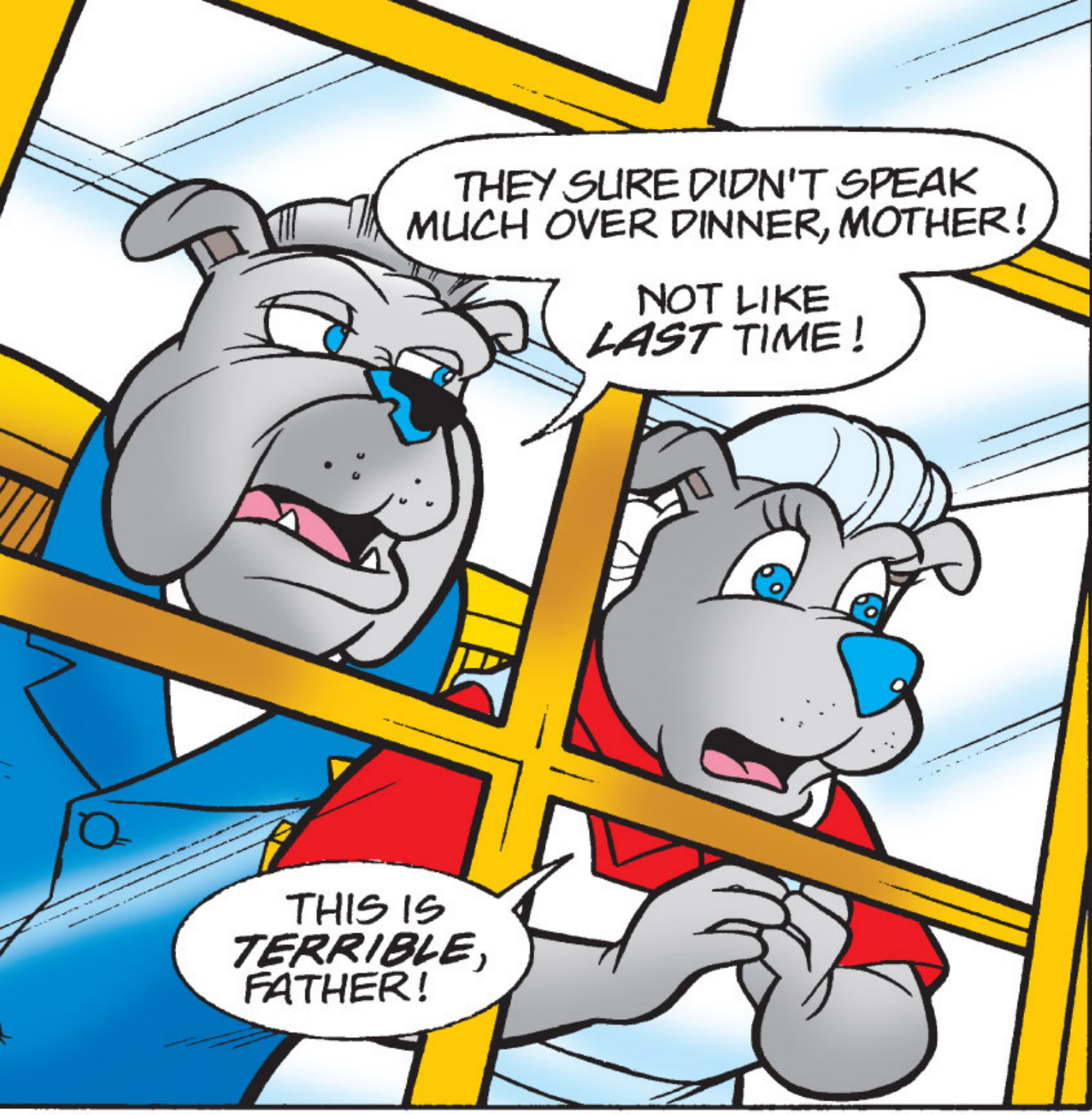
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SILLY?

OF COURSE I DO--



--BUT I CAN'T CONVINCE THEM UNTIL I FIGURE OUT HOW TO COUNTER OVER 400 YEARS OF ECHIDNA HISTORY AND TRADITION!

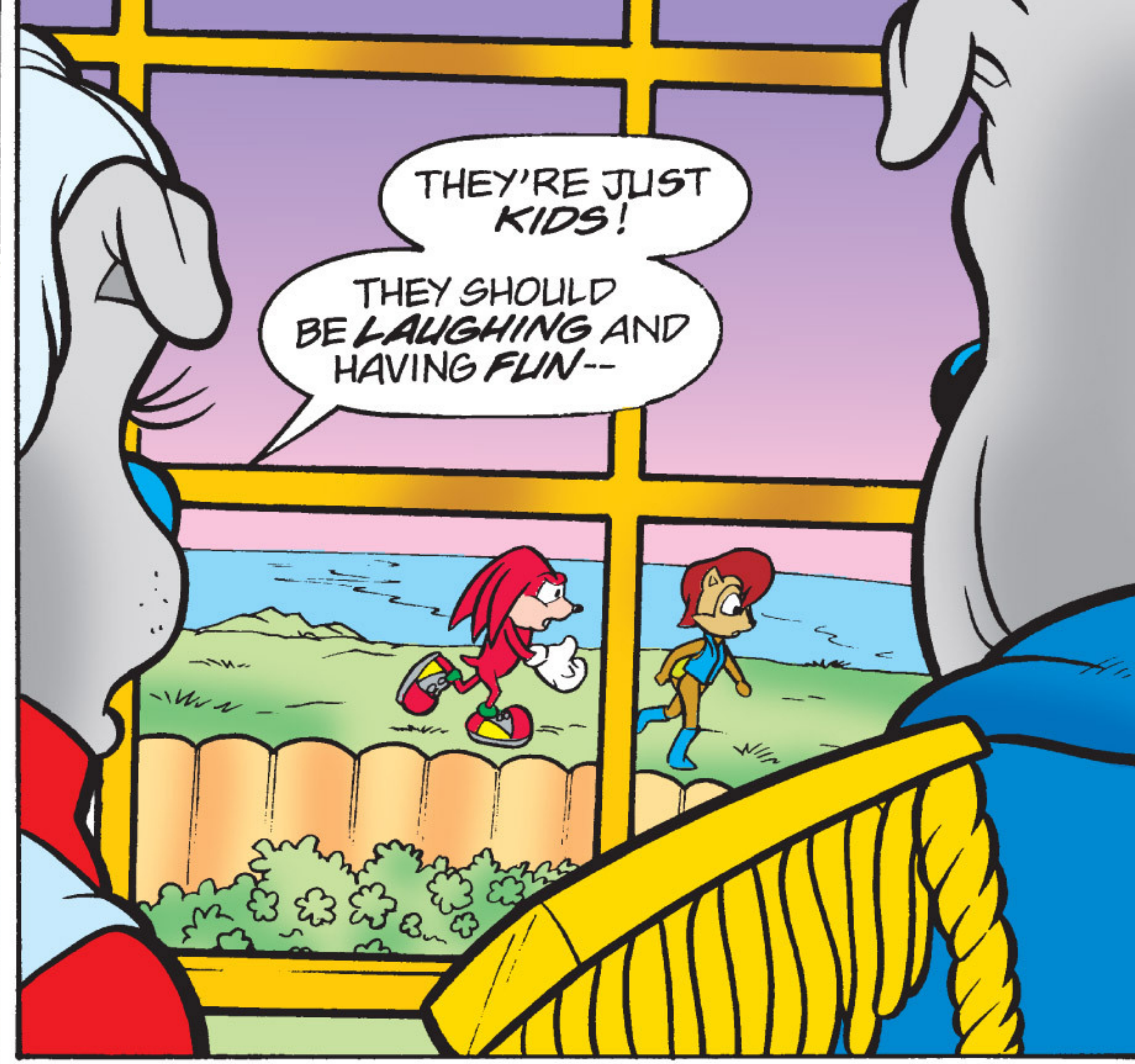
SO, WHAT DO WE DO IN THE MEANTIME WHILE YOU PLAY APPRENTICE?



THEY SURE DIDN'T SPEAK MUCH OVER DINNER, MOTHER!

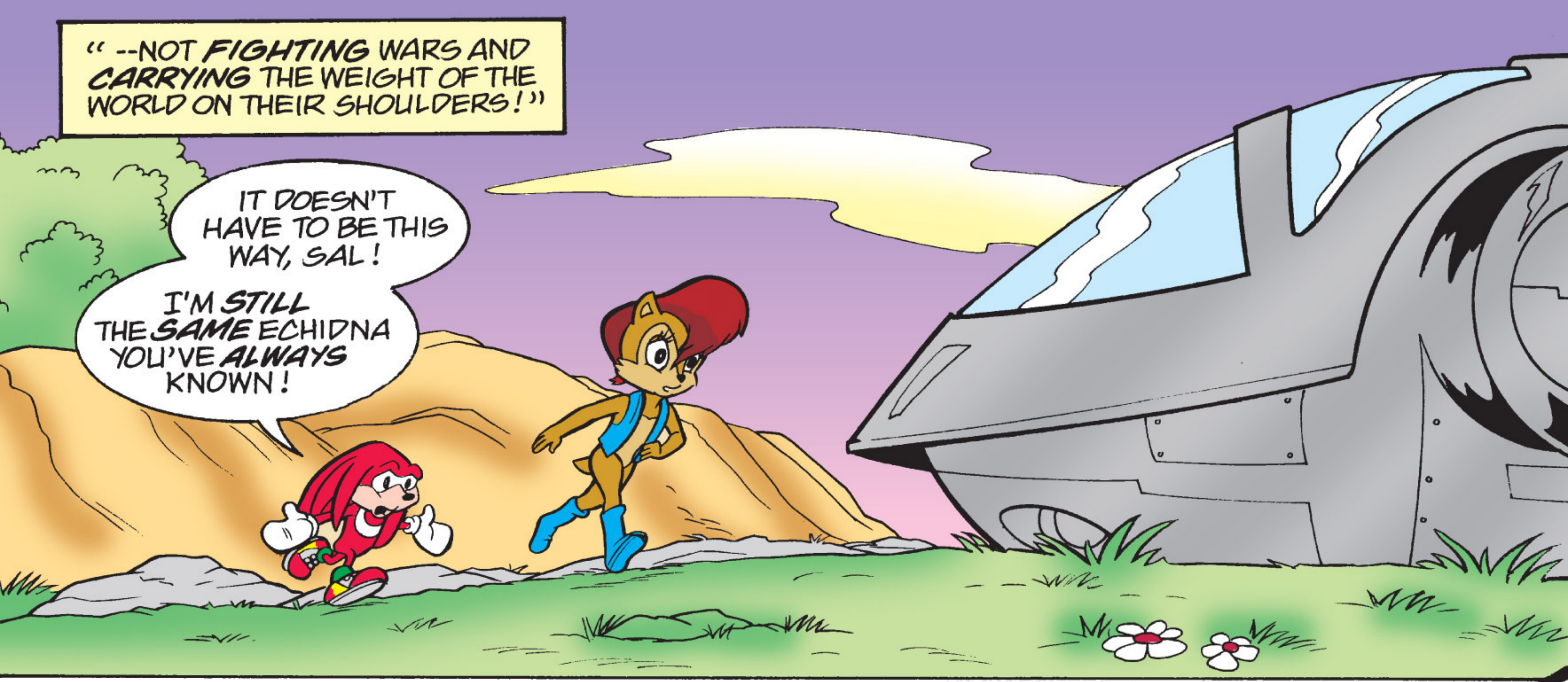
NOT LIKE LAST TIME!

THIS IS TERRIBLE, FATHER!



THEY'RE JUST KIDS!

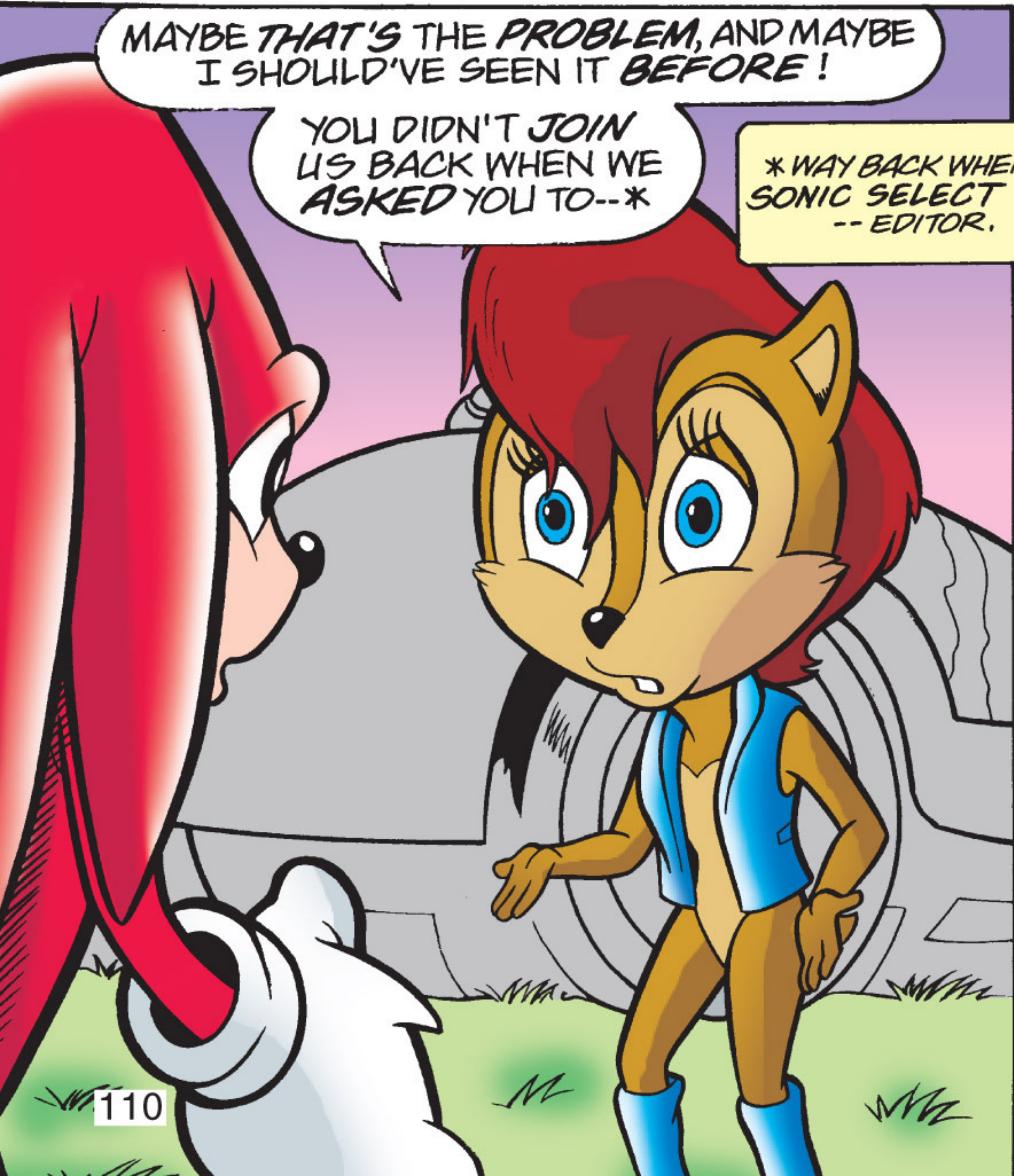
THEY SHOULD BE LAUGHING AND HAVING FUN--



" --NOT FIGHTING WARS AND CARRYING THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD ON THEIR SHOULDERS!"

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY, SAL!

I'M STILL THE SAME ECHIDNA YOU'VE ALWAYS KNOWN!



MAYBE THAT'S THE PROBLEM, AND MAYBE I SHOULD'VE SEEN IT BEFORE!

YOU DIDN'T JOIN US BACK WHEN WE ASKED YOU TO--*

*WAY BACK WHEN IN SONIC SELECT VOL.1 -- EDITOR.



--AND IT'S OBVIOUS YOU STILL WOULDN'T, EVEN NOW!

HOW CAN WE STILL BE FRIENDS AFTER THAT?



I STOOD AND WATCHED LONG AFTER SALLY WAS BEYOND MY SIGHT, RESENTING THE FACT THAT THE VERY REASONS WHICH BROUGHT US TOGETHER WERE NOW TEARING US APART.

I COULDN'T BLAME HER FOR FEELING THE WAY SHE DID, AND YET, I HAD TO ADMIT MY DAD AND THE OTHERS HAD EQUALLY VALID REASONS TO SUPPORT THEIR POSITION.

HOW CAN I CHOOSE?
MY SPECIAL FRIEND?
OR MY FAMILY?



IF BOTH WERE RIGHT, WHERE DID THAT LEAVE ME?

FOR MORE AWESOME KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA ACTION, BE SURE TO PICK UP THE KNUCKLES ARCHIVES GRAPHIC NOVEL SERIES! VOLUMES 1-4 ARE AVAILABLE NOW!

SCAN THE CODE!

